



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

EALL375: Topics in Japanese Cultural Studies

Eco-Anime: Can Japanese Anime Make Society Greener?

Spring 2021 MWF (01/11-05/14)

Synchronous and Asynchronous Online

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Office: Moore 377

Office hours: Zoom by appointment only



Course Description:

Regarding both cinematic and social analysis, of the most promising environmental philosophies to investigate in the technological age, is the critical theory of social ecology. One of the major themes in Japanese anime, especially the Ghibli Studio productions are focused on ecological and environmental problems. This course examines the genre of Eco-Anime in Japan that contains a wealth of movies and TV shows grabbing with green themes, and leading audiences to think about their relationship as humans towards the Earth, where possible solutions to nature/culture divide may lie. For instance, in *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (1979), Hayao Miyazaki's first big film, a small community of ecologically responsible people have managed to carve out a comfortable existence through renewable technology and living in peace with the Ohmu, giant insectoid creatures which roam the toxic wastelands the rest of the planet has become. Another film of Miyazaki, *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988) is often considered to be addressing the "eco-centric" rather than the anthropocentric message. In this course, we also try to restore the balance between primary nature (the organic world) and cinematic secondary nature (the human-crafted world).

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the diverse uses and distinct properties of cultural production within the social order. The course is based on a thematically and chronologically organized history of visual and textual cultural production representing the images and texts of the environmental issues in Japanese manga and anime in the global context. The objective is to encourage critical thinking, the analysis of various types of visual and textual representations of the issues in popular culture and their relation to contexts of time and place, an appreciation for the literature, plus an awareness of the changing scholarly and critical interpretation of the subject.



Textbook:

There is no textbook. All of the reading materials for the course will be made available by the instructor online. All of the reading materials in PDF format will be located in Lulima under the resources module. Please check the assignments in the schedule and assignments section below.



Attendance Policy:

This course is delivered by both Synchronous and Asynchronous modalities. Please refer to the course schedule – We will meet via Zoom on the dates in red saying “Zoom Meeting” in the course schedule below. In blue saying “Zoom Meeting (Viewing Session),” I will broadcast the films using Zoom. I will send you the Zoom invitations. In blue saying, “Campus Streaming,” “YouTube,” and other internet platforms, please watch the designated anime on your own time. I posted the links to the streaming.

Organization and Responsibilities:

The thematic and chronological organization of the course is outlined below together with a schedule of course readings. Students will be responsible for studying the assigned readings found under the Lulima >Resource >Reading Material module. Please study individually the recorded PPT Lectures posted under Resources section of Lulima.

Grading Policy:

There are 100 points available in the course, divided among the following activities:

- Class attendance and Participation (Zoom)
- Five Response Papers (1 Page) on Viewings
- Final Research Paper (3~5 pages)
- Final Exam

Total



- 5 points
- 40 points (10 points x 4)
- 20 points
- 35 points
- 100 points**

Grading Scale:

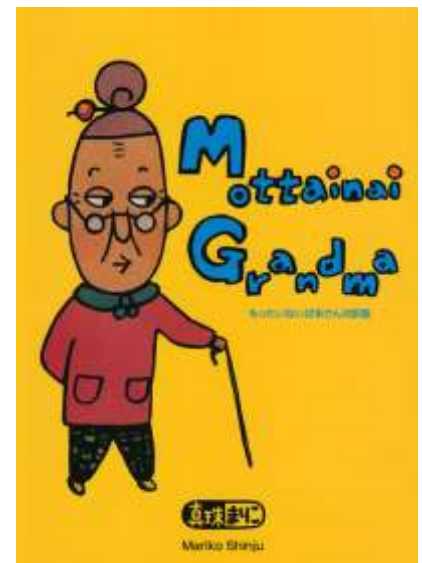
97 – 100% = A+	77 – 79.9% = C+
93 – 96.9% = A	73 – 76.9% = C
90 – 92.9% = A-	70 – 72.9% = C-
87 – 89.9% = B+	67 – 69.9% = D+
83 – 86.9% = B	60 – 66.9% = D
80 – 82.9% = B-	Below 60% = F

Class Attendance and Participation on Zoom (5 points):

Let us meet via Zoom on the dates in red saying “Zoom Meeting” in the course schedule below. I will send you a Zoom invitation prior to each meeting. During these meetings, you are expected to discuss the assigned questions.

Four Response Papers (1 Page) on Viewings (40 points):

Students are divided into small groups. One group consists of 4~5 students. After discussing the Viewing-Response questions during the Zoom sessions, please write a summary (approximately 400 words) on the Discussion module on Lulima **individually**. There are five discussion assignments and each assignment is worth 10 points. Please note that the Response Paper 5 is a part of the Final Exam. So, please do not post it on Discussion board.





Final Research Paper Project (20 points):
 You will work on this project individually. Choose ONE topic from the Five Viewing-Response questions you will be assigned throughout this semester. Then, develop your response into a research paper. Conduct your research to expand the ideas. Be sure to analyze the socio-political and economic, as well as religio-cultural and historical developments in contemporary Japan in a global context through an examination of the environmental issues represented in manga and anime using the specific examples.

Submitted via email attachment. This assignment requires 3~5 pages text (Times New Roman, 12 font, double-spaced), bibliography on a separated page. Due on May 10th, 2021.

Final Exam (35 points):

Cumulative – Combination of multiple-choice quizzes and terminology identification questions. This open-book, online exam will be posted on Resource module of Lualima in the Final Exam week of the semester. Please download the exam, write your answers, and send it back to me via email attachment. Response Paper 5 is a part of the Final Exam.

Tentative Course Outline and Reading Assignments (Subject to change):

DATES	VIEWING, READING, and PPT SCHEDULES	CLASS CONTENTS
Wk1 Jan 11 Mon	Read 1ab: Haruo Shirane, “Introduction: Secondary Nature, Climate, and Landscape” and “Poetic Topics and the Making of the Four Seasons” in <i>Japan and the Culture of the Four Seasons</i> , Columbia Univ. Press, 2012, 1-24. PPT Lecture 1: Introduction Why do we study popular culture? What is Ecocriticism? Nature and Japan	Introduction to the course Theoretical Framework – Nature, Environment, Ecological system, and Eco-criticism World Population Clock – We are sharing our Planet Earth with over 7.8 Billion people currently! https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/ Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Jan 13 Wed	Watch 1: <i>The Tale of Princess Kaguya</i> (2013) 137min. Read 2: <i>The Bamboo-Cutter and the Moon-Child</i> Created for Lit2Go on the web at fcit.usf.edu	Historical Background and Secondary Nature Significance of the Four Seasons in Japanese Culture
Jan 15 Fri	Watch 1: <i>The Tale of Princess Kaguya</i> , Cont. Read 3: Tsuji Nobuo, “Early Medieval Picture Scrolls as Ancestors of Anime and Manga” <i>Births and Rebirths in Japanese Art</i> , Leiden: Hotei Academics, Brill, 2001, pp. 53-82.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM Campus Streaming http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/lualima.php?fn=2004_princess_kaguya
Wk2 Jan 18 Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (non-instructional day)	No class assignment
Jan 20 Wed	PPT Lecture2: Secondary Nature and Princess Kaguya	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM Nature as Metaphor of Human Emotions
Jan 22 Fri	Viewing Response 1: What is the role of nature in Japanese culture? How Four Seasons were constructed through the traditional visual and textual representations in Japan? What is the “secondary nature”? How is it different from the primary nature? How is it applied in the film, <i>The Tale of Princess Kaguya</i> ?	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM

Wk3 Jan 25 Mon	Watch 2: <i>Spirited Away</i> (2001) 125min. Read 4: Michael Lucken, "Miyazaki Hayao's Spirited Away, or, the Adventure of the Obliques," Imitation and Creativity in Japanese Arts, 175-200.	Nature and Spirituality I Campus Steaming http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=1611_spirited_away
Jan 27 Wed	Watch 2: <i>Spirited Away</i> , Cont. Read 5: Jeff Saporito, "What does "Spirited Away" say about Environmentalism?" Screen Prism. Archived from the original on 3 March 2017. Retrieved 1 March 2017. http://screenprism.com/insights/article/what-does-spirited-away-say-about-environmentalism	Viewing Respose 1 Due at 11:59 PM Midnight Eight Million (= Infinite) Shinto Spirits Polluted and Disappearing Rivers – <i>Tatari-gami</i> and the Kohaku River Shintoism, Animism, Nature and <i>kami</i> Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Jan 29 Fri	Watch 3: <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i> (1988) 100min. Read 6: Eléna Pougin, "From 'Princess Mononoke' To 'My Neighbor Totoro': Hayao Miyazaki, Environmental Activist" published on 25/06/2019 http://blog.nus.edu.sg/greenjapan/2020/02/06/from-princess-mononoke-to-my-neighbor-totoro-hayao-miyazaki-environmental-activist-joe-and-megan/	Nature and Spirituality II What is the Eco-Centricity? Anthropocentrism vs. Eco-centrism Campus Streaming http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=1806_my_neighbor_totoro
Wk4 Feb 1 Mon	Watch 3: <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i> , Cont.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Feb 3 Wed	PPT Lecture 3: Nature and Spirituality in <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i> and <i>Spirited Away</i>	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM Nature and Spirituality
Feb 5 Fri	Viewing Response 2: How nature and spirituality are depicted in the films <i>Spirited Away</i> and <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i> ? How are the pollution and purification depicted in these films? How the cycle of life – birth, growth, death, and rebirth are portrayed in these films? Do you think <i>My Neighbor Totoro</i> is an Eco-centric film? If so, why?	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk5 Feb 8 Mon	Watch 4: <i>Godzilla</i> (1954) 98 min. Read 7: Hamilton, "Godzilla After the Meltdown: the evolution and mutation of Japan's greatest monster," 41-53.	Pollutions and Nuclear Experience I <i>Godzilla:</i> https://archive.org/details/01Godzilla_201811 Viewing Respose 2 Due at 11:59 PM Midnight
Feb 10 Wed	Watch 5: <i>Shin Godzilla</i> (2016) 120 min. Read 9: Tanaka, <i>Godzilla and the Bravo Shot: Who Created and Killed the Monster?</i>	Pollutions and Nuclear Experience II Campus Streaming: <i>Shin Godzilla</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2012_shin_godzilla.mov
Feb 12 Fri	Watch 6: <i>Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind</i> (1985) 117 minutes Read 8: Bryant, "Neutering the Monster, Pruning the Green: The Ecological Evolutions of Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind" <i>A Journal of the Environmental Humanities</i> , 1 October 2015, Vol.2(3), pp.120-126.	Pollutions and Nuclear Experience III Campus Streaming http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2008_nausicaa
Wk6 Feb 15 Mon	President's Day (non-instructional day)	No class assignment

Feb 17 Wed	PPT Lecture 4: Pollutions and Nuclear Experience in Godzilla and Nausicaä Plastic poison https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzJaBHyZ-8	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM The pollution as an energy source
Feb 19 Fri	PPT Lecture 4: Pollutions and Nuclear Experience in Godzilla and Nausicaä, Cont.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk7 Feb 22 Mon	PPT Lecture 4: Pollutions and Nuclear Experience in Godzilla and Nausicaä, Cont.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Feb 24 Wed	<i>Tell the Priminister</i> (2015) 109min. dir. By Oguma Eiji	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Feb 26 Fri	<i>Tell the Priminister</i> , Cont.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk8 Mar 1 Mon	Viewing Response 3: How the Nuclear disasters are reflected in the Godzilla Films premiered in 1954 and 2016? How do the people in Japan perceive the operation of Nuclear Power Plants? In relation to the Nausicaa, let's think about what happens once the earth's ecosystem collapses due to environmental pollution? What can we do to prevent it?	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Mar 3 Wed	Watch 7: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> (1997) 134min. Read 10: Benjamin Thevenin, "Princess Mononoke and beyond: New nature narratives for children" <i>Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture</i> , 10/01/2013, Vol.4(2), pp.147-170	Animalization of the Environmental Issues I Industrial Revolution and its Consequences Deforestation and Industrialization Campus Streaming: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2003_princess_mononoke
Mar 5 Fri	Watch 7: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> , cont. Read 11: Azuma Hiroki, "The Animalization of Otaku Culture" <i>Mechademia 2: Networks of Desire</i> , the University of Minnesota Press, 2007.	Comparing it to the <i>Over the Hedge</i> Over Development and Suffering of the Animals Viewing Respose Paper 3 Due at 11:59 PM Midnight
Wk9 Mar 8 Mon	Watch 8: <i>Heisei Pom Poko</i> (1994) 119 min. Read 12: Okuyama, "Folklore Motifs in Spirited Away and Princess Mononoke," 97-128. Read 13: Todd Andrew Borlik, "Carnavalesque Ecoterrorism in Pom Poko" <i>Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities</i> , 1 October 2015, Vol.2 (3), pp.127-133.	Animalization of the Environmental Issues II Campus Streaming: <i>Heisei Pom Poko</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2003_pom_poko.mov World Population Clock – We are sharing our Planet Earth with over 7.8 Billion people currently! https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/ Shrinking Habitable Space for Wild Animals
Mar 10 Wed	PPT Lecture 5: Animalization of the Environment Issues	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Mar 12 Fri	Viewing Response 4: How a new nature narrative is demonstrated in the films <i>Princess Mononoke</i> and <i>Heisei Pom Poko</i> ? How is it different from the conventional narrative? How is it effectively representing some of the complexities of environmental discourse in those films?	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Mar 15 - 19	SPRING RECESS	No class assignment
Wk10 Mar 22 Mon	Watch 9: <i>Evangelion 1:01 You are (not) alone</i>	Climate Change and Natural Disasters I Campus Streaming: <i>Evangelion 1:01 You are (not) alone</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn

		=2010_evangelion_101 Viewing Respose Paper 4 Due at 11:59 PM Midnight
Mar 24 Wed	Watch 10: Evangelion 2:22 You can (not) advance	The world after the Second Impact Campus Streaming: Evangelion 2:22 You can (not)advance http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2010_evangelion_222
Mar 26 Fri	Kuhio Day (non-instructional day)	No class assignment
Wk11 Mar 29 Mon	Watch 10: Evangelion 2:22 You can (not) advance, Cont.	The Shinto vision of the primordial cosmos and the mythical lances of the Shinto deities Izanagi and Izanami – Combined with the Kabblistic construction of the universe
Mar 31 Wed	Watch 11: <i>Evangelion 3:33 You can (not) redo</i>	Campus Streaming: Evangelion 3:33 You can (not) redo http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2010_evangelion_333
Apr 2 Fri	Good Friday (non-instructional day)	No class assignment
Wk12 Apr 5 Mon	PPT Lecture 6: Climate Change with an Apocalyptic View	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Apr 7 Wed	Reviewing Response 5: The End of the World? What triggered the Third Impact?	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Apr 9 Fri	Watch 12: <i>The Voices of a Distant Star</i> (2002) 25min.	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk13 Apr 12 Mon		Sekai-kei The World of Shikai Makoto Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM Watch via Amazon Prime https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B00UY3Z7H4/ref=pe_492632_166382082_TE_M1WN
Apr 14 Wed	Supplemental film: <i>5 Centimeters Per Second</i> (2007)	Climate Change and Natural Disasters II How the cycle of seasons and climates are represented in this film? Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Apr 16 Fri	Supplemental film: <i>Garden of the Words</i> (2013)	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk14 Apr 19 Mon	Watch 13: <i>Kimi no nawa (Your Name., 2016)</i> 107min.	Climate Change and Natural Disasters III Campus Streaming: <i>Your Name., 2016</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=1801_your_name
Apr 21 Wed	Watch 13: <i>Kimi no nawa (Your Name., 2016)</i> , Cont.	Reacting the Tohoku Great Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster
Apr 23 Fri	Watch 14: <i>Weathering With You</i> (2019) 112 min. Read 14: David Ehrlich ‘Weathering with You’ Review: Shinkai Makoto’s ‘Your Name’ Follow-Up Is a Gorgeous Love Story About Climate Change. Retrieved on Sep. 9, 2019. https://www.indiewire.com/2019/09/weathering-with-you-review-mokoto-shinkai-1202172108/	Climate Change and Natural Disasters IV Global Warming/ Global Warning Change of Weather, Change of Social Climate from the Heisei to Reiwa Era Campus Streaming : <i>Weathering With You</i> http://www.sinclair.hawaii.edu/auth/laulima.php?fn=2101_weathering_with_you.mov
Wk15	Watch 14: <i>Weathering With You</i> , Cont.	

Apr 26 Mon		
Apr 28 Wed	PPT Lecture 7: A New Natural and Soeial Climate	Social and Cultural Significance A New type of Characters in the Reiwa Era Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Apr30 Fri	PPT Lecture 7: A New Natural and Soeial Climate, cont.	Transformation of Shinkai World from the Voice of a Distant Star (2001) 25min., through Your Name. (2016) to <i>Weathering With You</i> (2019) Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Wk16 May 3 Mon	Viewing Response 6: Analyze the changing social, spiritual, and natural climates in the late Heisei, and compare with those in the Reiwa Era through an examination of the films <i>Your Name</i> . (2016) and <i>the Weathering with You</i> (2019).	Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
May 5 Wed	Review and Conclusion PPT Lecure 8: Mottainai Bāsan (Granma) Read 15: Shinju, <i>Mottainai Bāsan</i> Read 16: Siniawer, “Affluence of the Heart: Wastefulness and the Search for Meaning in Millennial Japan,” <i>The Journal of Asian Studies</i> , Vol.73, No.1 (Feb) 2014: 165-186.	Sastainability What is “mottainai”? What is the difference between “mottainai” and “kechi” (stingy)? Mottainai obake (monster) Zoom Meeting 12:30 – 1:20 PM
May 10	Final Research Paper Due 11:59PM (HST)	No class meeting; Submit your paper via email
May 10 – 14	Final Examination Period Final Exam Online Due on May 14, 11:59 PM Midnight (HST)	Viewing Responses 5 & 6 are part of the Final Exam



Academic Calendar Spring 2021



Date	Event
October 26, 2020	Spring 2021 Class Availability Posted
November 16, 2020	Registration assignments begin: Continuing Classified students
November 26, 2020	HOLIDAY: Thanksgiving Day (non-instructional day)
November 30, 2020	Registration assignments begin: Incoming (newly accepted, returning, transfer) students
December 7, 2020	Registration begins: All Unclassified students
December 25, 2020	HOLIDAY: Christmas Day (non-instructional day)
January 1, 2021	HOLIDAY: New Year’s Day (non-instructional day)

Date	Event
January 8	Payment Receipt Deadline
January 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester begins • Late registration begins (single \$30 system-wide late fee) • UH Employee Faculty & Staff registration begins
January 18	HOLIDAY: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (non-instructional day)
January 19 by 4:00 p.m. (HST)	Deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for a course • Change course grading mode & variable credit • Drop a course for 100% tuition refund
January 29	Spring 2021 & Summer 2021 Graduates: deadline to file Application for Graduation for the Spring 2021 commencement on May 15, 2021.
February 3 by 4:00 p.m. (HST)	Deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop a course without a “W” grade • Drop Business Administration courses numbered 300 and above • Drop a course for 50% tuition refund • Submit UH Employee tuition waivers
February 4-March 25	In-Person Restricted Withdrawal period begins (with “W” grade)
February 15	HOLIDAY: President’s Day (non-instructional day)
February 15-May 1	Online registration opens for the Spring 2021 commencement ceremony: https://manoa.hawaii.edu/commencement/
March 15-19	SPRING RECESS
March 26	HOLIDAY: Kuhio Day (non-instructional day)
March 29 by 4:00 p.m. (HST)	Deadline for In-Person Restricted Withdrawals (with “W” Grade)
April 1	Deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit an “I” grade removal for Fall 2020 • Apply for Credit by Examination
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theses and Dissertations due to Graduate Division • HOLIDAY: Good Friday (non-instructional day)
May 5	Last day of instruction
May 6-8	Study Period
May 10-14	Final Examination Period
May 15	Commencement; semester ends
May 18 by 4:00 p.m. (HST)	Faculty Grade Submission Deadline
May 19	Grades available in STAR GPS
May 29	Summer 2021 Graduates: deadline to file Application for Graduation for the Fall 2021 commencement on December 18, 2021.

Some dates are tentative and subject to change. If certain dates are not available, please check back at a later time for updates.