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'FANTASTIC' MODERNITY in JAPANESE FICTION AND POPULAR CULTURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EALL 372B is a course on modern Japanese fiction (from the mid-19th century to the present) in English translation. To provide a "topic" or special focus to the fiction we discuss in class, we will be studying works that take, as their subject, the "fantastic." The conventional view of modern Japanese literary history has canonized writers and works of fiction in the realist (or mimetic) tradition; and the study of these texts are primarily engaged in excavating what the literature reveals about modern (and postmodern) Japanese identities and experiences in all its varieties. However, this does not mean that 'fantastic'—as opposed to 'realistic'—fiction and culture were not produced and enjoyed throughout Japan's over 150 years of modernity. In this class, we will engage with novels, short-stories, manga, and film that are explicitly categorized as 'fantasy' or 'science fiction'—or simply contain elements of the fantastic or the "unreal." We will consider among other things (1) definitions, modes, conventions, and functions of 'fantasy' and the 'fantastic,' (2) how the representation of the fantastic interrogates, subverts, and/or illuminates modern Japanese identities and experiences, and (3) how fantastic landscapes (both utopian and dystopian) mediate 'real' spaces and places. The course will include a combination of lectures, student-centered discussions, and writing assignments based on assigned readings.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to identify and describe major authors, works, features, forms, and styles of Japanese literature in the modern era (fulfills EALL SLO7: Literature).
2. Students will be able to analyze and interpret works of Japanese fiction read in translation using terms appropriate to literary study (fulfills EALL SLO8: Literature)
3. Students will be able to situate and evaluate modern Japanese literature in its social, historical, intellectual, and religious contexts (fulfills EALL SLO9: Literature).
4. Students will be able to read as well as discuss, present on, and write about literary works in an informed and persuasive manner.
5. Students will be able to analyze and discuss works of Japanese literature using theories and approaches related to the concept of the "fantastic"

In addition, the following university-wide ILOs (Institutional Learning Objectives) apply, at least in part, to this course:

5. [ILO1 – Know - Breadth and Depth of Knowledge, 1.a] "General Education," and "Specialized study in an academic field."
6. [ILO2 – Do - Intellectual and Practical Skills, 2.c] "Communicate and Report."
7. [ILO3 – Value - Personal and Social responsibility, 3.b] "Respect for people and cultures."

COURSE MATERIALS

Please purchase the following REQUIRED books:

1. Murakami Haruki, *A Wild Sheep Chase*
2. Ogawa Yoko, *The Memory Police*

*** The books are available for purchase at the UH Manoa Bookstore. You may also purchase the books (or e-book versions) at your local bookstores or online.

*** All other reading materials can be accessed through the course Perusall.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Attendance and Participation (25%)

Daily attendance will be taken by the instructor.

Grade	Conditions
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Attendance</u>: arrived on time and stayed for entire duration of class• OR <u>Excused Absence</u>: notice of absence given prior to class and/or documentation (e.g. doctor's note, employer's note, etc.) provided after absence• AND Active Participation: taking part in class discussions by sharing ideas, responses and questions to topics raised, listening attentively and respectfully when others speak, and bringing the assigned reading materials to class.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Lateness</u>: arrived after attendance was taken or left class early without excuse• OR <u>Disruptiveness</u>: did things NOT related to class activities including but not limited to: having private conversations, checking Facebook, and eating in class
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Unexcused Absence</u>: did not email with notice of absence and/or did not bring legitimate documentation for absence• OR <u>Excessively Disruptive</u>: did not stop disruptive activities even after warning• OR <u>Excessive Lateness</u>: Came to class more than 30 minutes late

On occasion, students might be asked to take part in mini group activities or warm-up exercises. They may also be expected to answer mini quizzes that ask about the content of the readings assigned for the given week. Because they will NOT BE ANNOUNCED in advanced, students should come to every class meeting prepared.

- Daily Perusall Annotations (25%)

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings by the deadline (see class schedule). In order to ensure that students engage closely with the assigned reading and set the stage for meaningful discussion during class, everyone is required to submit a minimum of three (3) annotations on every assigned text prior to class through the website, Perusall.

Set up account at: <https://perusall.com/>

Access Code: PIZARRO-T8WCG

Annotations will be due before class by 11:30am through Perusall. Annotations do not have to be long; one or two brief sentences should suffice. Students can comment or react to parts of the readings, ask questions, or respond to comments or questions posed by a fellow classmate. Each annotation assignment can grant students up to five (5) points in total: three (3) points for the minimum three annotations, one (1) point for on-time submission, and one (1) point for quality and substance of the posts

- Weekly Forum Posts (25%)

Students are required to post on the Laulima forum by 11:30 am on the day they are due (see class schedule):

- ①. Include a quote from any of the week's assigned readings that you found interesting, have a question about, or want to discuss further in class; this can be a line of text, a piece of dialogue, or larger paragraph(s) AND should include accurate page number(s) where the quote is located within the text.
- ②. Include a paragraph (5 full sentences or more) providing context/explanation for the chosen quote: Why did you find that passage interesting? What do you want clarified about the passage? What do you want your classmates to know about it? What larger question or topic do you want to raise during discussion based on this passage?

Grade	Conditions
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post is uploaded on Laulima forum by 11:30 am on the day it is due. • Post includes a passage from the assigned text that is quoted accurately and cited with the correct page numbers. • Post includes a paragraph (5 full sentences) providing explanation for the chosen passage • Post is well-written, using proper English grammar conventions, correct spelling, and academic tone. • Post is thoughtful and detailed; sufficiently demonstrates that the student read the assigned reading
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post is not uploaded on Laulima. • Post shows signs of plagiarism.

- Creative Adaptation Project (25%)

Toward the end of the course, students will form groups (2 to 3 members) and propose a creative adaptation (film, theatrical play, comic/manga etc.) of a novel or short story of their choice. Further instructions and details about the student panel, as well as a grading rubric will be distributed in the future.

GRADING SCALE

A+	100 %	C+	77 – 79.99	F	59.99and below
A	95 – 99.99	C	73 – 76.99		
A-	90 – 94.99	C-	70 – 72.99		
B+	87 – 89.99	D+	67 – 69.99		
B	83 – 86.99	D	63 – 66.99		
B-	80 – 82.99	D-	60 – 62.99		

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students who enroll in this course are required to abide by the [Student Conduct Code](#). The most relevant section, on Academic Dishonesty, is as follows:

Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following: a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty. b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office. c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

OFFICE OF TITLE IX

Title IX is a landmark federal civil rights that prohibits sex discrimination in education. The University of Hawaii is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, the University has staff and resources on your campus to support and assist you. Staff can also direct you to resources that are in the community.

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need. For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/>

KOKUA PROGRAM

Students who have a disability with related academic access needs are warmly encouraged to contact the [KOKUA Program](#). It serves undergraduate, graduate and professional students with learning, physical, psychiatric and other documented disabilities. KOKUA provides disability access services to individuals on a case by case basis, and students are not charged for these services. A student's disability status is considered confidential information and is only disclosed to faculty with the student's permission.

REGARDING BASIC NEEDS

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources and transportation, among others. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know are experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the following resources: [UH System Basic Needs](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Schedule:

- **Assignments and readings are listed on the day we will discuss them.** Have them done by then.
- On the day that a text or section of a text is due to be read, Perusall annotations (see above) are also due (by 11:30 am). Some readings will be longer than others. **Check the page numbers in advance and plan ahead** to give yourself enough time to read them and write thoughtful posts by the **deadline**.
- All readings can be found on and downloaded from the course Perusall EXCEPT for titles marked with **** which must be purchased**. Make sure to purchase them in advance to give yourself ample reading time.

Week 01: Introduction to “Fantastic” “Modern” and “Literature”

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| T | Jan 10 | Read: copy of course syllabus and bring to class
(Optional) Read: Eagleton, <i>How to Read Literature</i> , “Openings”
(Optional) Read: Griffith, “Interpreting Fiction”
(Optional) Read: Acheson, “Thesis Statements for Literary Analysis Essays” |
| R | Jan 12 | Read: excerpts from critical readings on fantasy in modern fiction
***Persuall Annotations |

Week 02: Yōkai Then and Now

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| T | Jan 17 | (Optional): “Introducing Yōkai” from <i>The Book of Yōkai</i> (pp. 14 – 32)
Read: “Yōkai Codex: Kitsune and Tanuki” from <i>The Book of Yōkai</i> (pp. 177 – 193)
Read: “Monsters! Monsters! Read All About It!: Tales of the Extraordinary from Early Meiji Newspapers (1875 – 1886)” from <i>A Tokyo Anthology</i>
***Persuall Annotations |
| R | Jan 19 | Watch: Takahata Isao, <i>Pom Poko</i> (1994)
Read: Borlik, “Carnavalesque Ecoterrorism in <i>Pom Poko</i> ”
Submit: Forum Post #01 |

Week 03: Avenging Females of Meiji

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| T | Jan 24 | Read: Izumi Kyoka, <i>The Holy Man of Mount Koya</i> (1900) ***Persuall Annotations |
| R | Jan 26 | Read: Nakamura, “Monstrous Language: The Translation of Hygienic Discourse in Izumi Kyoka’s <i>The Holy Man of Mount Koya</i> ”
Submit: Forum Post #02 |