Japanese 331 Women’s Voices in Japanese Literature
Fall 2008

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:20 – 6:50 pm
Location: Duckering 347

Instructor: David Henry
Office: Gruening 612a
Office hours (subject to change): Tuesdays and Thursday at 4-5pm or by appt.
Contact: dahenry2@alaska.edu or 474-7128

There would be no Japanese literature without women’s voices. In the Heian period (8-12th century), which serves as one of the two loci of this class, women developed both an orthographic system and a literature that ranks as that culture’s crowning achievement and our best window into it. We will start with a focus on the *Genji monogatari*, hailed as the world’s first novel, and then consider a Heian woman’s diary, the Sarashina nikki (or *As I Crossed a Dreams*). Our first five weeks spent in classical Japanese literature grounds us in the tropes and references that are basic even today. We will then jump a millennium in time to focus on how women’s identity has been rewritten in the turbulent one hundred years from roughly 1900 to 2000. Modern Japanese identity has been in a constant state of flux and nowhere is this more true than in the case of female identity. The constant rewriting of gender by women authors and artists has served as a critique of society, a search for new self-definitions and as compelling art.

Writing is at the heart of this class and we will have short (200 word), medium (5 page) and longer (10 page) assignments. Each day by midnight the day before a reading is due you are responsible for short (200-300 word) reactions to that reading. These will be posted to a thread on Blackboard to be shared with the class. They should be concise but demonstrate an engagement with one or two issues or aspects of the reading that struck you; asking questions is also encouraged.

Two 5 page papers are due; on 9/22 and 10/7. The first should be a poetry analysis of an exchange of poetry in the *Genji monogatari*; it should explore the references, images, and meaning of two poems exchanged within the chapters we have read. The theme of the second paper is your choice but will likely focus on some aspect of Heian literature. You will submit three copies each of the 5 page papers: one to me, and also to two other students with whom you will work on group editing of the papers. We will have time in class for this group editing and editing groups ideally should remain the same through the semester. After incorporating changes suggested by your group, you will resubmit your paper at a later date.

The final 10 paper is also on a theme of your choice, but in consultation with me, and will be due in stages. First, you will submit on 11/18 a 2-5 paper that explores your topic. On 12/2 an annotated bibliography is due, and the final 10 page paper is due 12/9. In our final class we will engage in a final group editing session and you will resubmit the final paper by or before the final exam.
GRADING

Participation  25% (includes occasional homework sheets)
Quizzes/Final  25%

Writing:
  Blackboard posts  10%
  Two 5 page papers  20% (10% each)
  Final paper  20% (5% draft, annotated biblio; 10% Dec 9 submission; 5% Dec 18 submission)

UAF has returned to +/- grading as if last year. Grading is as follows:
A+ 100 – 97   B + 89 – 87   C + 79 – 77   D + 69 – 67   F 59 and below
A  96 – 93     B  86 – 83     C  76 – 73     D  66 – 63

As a rule, no make-ups will be given for participation, etc unless prior arrangements are made or there is a signed doctor note.

COURSE READINGS

…will be primarily be available online through eres, but a coursepack is also available to be photocopied. Handouts will also be distributed.
http://eres.uaf.edu/
http://eres.uaf.edu/courseindex.asp
The password to enter the site is: ______________________________
For blackboard postings, login, go to JPN 331, and then choose Discussion Board. Blackboard URL:
http://classes.uaf.edu/

COURSE POLICIES

Appropriate class behavior. You are welcome to bring a drink to class, as long as you clean up after yourself. Side conversations are not acceptable. I expect you to be courteous to classmates and professor at all times. Cell phones should be turned off, and I reserve the right to answer any phone that rings in class. If mine rings, you have the right to ridicule me.

Students with disabilities. UAF makes appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities who have been documented by the Office of Disability Services (203 Whitaker Building, 474-7043). Students with learning or other disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to obtain the appropriate documentation if they do not have it. Please meet with me during office hours so that I can collaborate with the Office of Disability Services to provide the appropriate accommodations and supports to assist you in meeting the goals of the course.

Student support services. UAF is committed to equal opportunity for all students. Students who are the first in their families to attempt a four-year college degree, or students whose incomes are low, have opportunities for tutorial and other forms of support from the office of Student Support Services. Please make an appointment with Student Support Services at 474-2644.

Student code of conduct. As a UAF student, you are subject to UAF's Honor Code:
“Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.

Violations of the Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the assignment and, ordinarily, for the course in which the violation occurred. Moreover, violation of the Honor Code may result in suspension or expulsion.”

Tentative course schedule
### Week 1
**Thursday 8/30**  Introduction, Course syllabus, Tips for Writing

### Week 2
**Tuesday 9/4**  Women Writers of 10th century Japan  

**Thursday 9/6**  The Art of Japanese Poetry  
Readings: *Genji* Ch 2-3 (pp. 19-52)  
**September 9 (Friday): last day for full refund for dropped classes**

### Week 3
**Tuesday 9/11**  Generating Theses on Higuchi Ichiyo’s *Child’s Play*  
Readings: Higuchi Ichiyo, *Child’s Play*

**Thursday 9/13**  Flowers in Salt: Modern Women Writers  
Readings: TBA (Selected excerpts)

### Week 4
**Monday 9/17**  **Due:** First 5 page paper (5:00 pm by email or hardcopy)

**Tuesday 9/18**  First Writing Workshop  
Readings: No readings but bring 4 hardcopies of your paper to class

**Thursday 9/20**  Men Writing Women  
Readings: Kawabata Yasunari’s *Izu no Odoriko* (The Izu Dancer)

### Week 5
**Tuesday 9/25**  Heian Women’s Diaries 2  
Readings: *Sarashina nikki* (p. 58-87, ch. 4-16)

**Thursday 9/27**  Heian Women’s Diaries 3  
Readings: *Sarashina nikki* (p. 87-122, ch. 17-31)

### Week 6
**Tuesday 10/2**  Modern Women’s Writing  
Readings:  
**Due: Second 5 page paper**

**Thursday 10/4**  Modern Women’s Writing 2  
Second group editing session
Week 7
Tuesday 10/9 Modern Women’s Writing 3
Reading: Hayashi Fumiko, *Vagabond’s Song* (excerpts)

Thursday 10/11 Modern Women’s Writing 4
Readings: Hirabayashi Taiko, *Blind Chinese Soldiers* (pp. 41-45)
Hayashi Kyoko, *Yellow Sand* (pp. 207-216)

Week 8
Tuesday 10/16 Readings:

Thursday 10/18 Enchi Fumiko
Readings: Enchi Fumiko, *Masks, Ryo no onna* (pp. 3-59)

Week 9
Tuesday 10/23 Enchi Fumiko 2
Readings: *Masks, Masugami* (pp. 61-113)

Thursday 10/25 Enchi Fumiko 3
Readings: *Masks, Fukai* (pp. 113-141)

Week 10
Tuesday 10/30 Postwar Women
Readings: Oba Minako, *Candle Fish* (pp. 18-38)

Thursday 11/1 Postwar Women 2
Readings: Takahashi Takako, *Doll Love* (pp. 199-223)

Week 11
Tuesday 11/6 Postwar Women 3
Readings: Kono Taeko, *Toddler Hunting*
Inaba Mayumi, *Morning Comes Twice a Day*

Thursday 11/8 Moving Images
Viewing: *Maboroshi no hikari*

Week 12
Tuesday 11/13 Movie 2: Society in Debt
Readings:  *Minbo no Onna* (*A Taxing Woman*)

Thursday  11/15  Contemporary Women’s Fiction 3: Violent Housewives  
Readings:  Kirino Natsuo, *Out*, pp. XX-XX

**Week 13**

Tuesday  11/20  Contemporary Women’s Fiction 3: Violent Housewives  
Readings:  Kirino Natsuo, *Out*, pp. XX-XX

Thursday  11/22  Movie 3: Costume and Identity  
Viewing:  *Kamikaze Girls* (*Shimotsuma monogatari*)

**Week 14**

**Monday  11/26**  Due: 10-15 page paper (5:00 pm by email or hardcopy)

Tuesday  11/27  Writer’s Workshop #4??  
Readings:  No readings but bring 4 hardcopies of your paper to share

**Week 15**

Tuesday  12/4  Student Presentations 2

Thursday  12/6  Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: 5:45 - 7:45 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 (Saturday)