Japanese 15
Introduction to Great Books and Films in the Original
Amherst College

Instructor

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Course Description

This course is designed for students who possess a high proficiency level of speaking but need training in cover-to-cover book reading or film comprehension. Class materials will be selected from well-known books and films. Writing assignments will be given to develop critical and creative writing skills in Japanese. Small groups based on the students' proficiency levels will be formed, so that instruction accords with the needs of each group. One group and one individualized or small group meetings per week are normally required throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

General objectives for this level of Japanese at Amherst are:

1. to be able to handle book-length materials or entire films;
2. to know the difference between spoken and written Japanese;
3. to be able to judge situations for appropriate speech and writing styles;
4. to be able to discuss and support abstract ideas in sustained conversations and writings.

In order to achieve these objectives, every student must:

1. attend every class;
2. do daily work, as directed and suggested by your instructor;
3. communicate the problems he or she has with the material to the instructor as soon as and as often as possible;

Course Materials

1. 川端康成「千羽鶴」
2. Movie (Stream server): TBA
The cost of copying and the book(s) will be charged to your account. This is true for all students, including 5-college interchange students.

**Instructor's role and responsibility:**

The most important task for the instructor is to know the language level and the learning strategy of each student in the class, and make sure that he or she will learn Japanese efficiently and effectively.

In order for each student to learn Japanese optimally, the instructors will provide effective practice, suggest effective and efficient ways to study, and answer questions each student may have.

**Students' responsibilities:**

Every student must learn Japanese actively. What this means is that the student should initiate his or her learning of this language. The needs of each student are different. If you need to learn a certain type of vocabulary or expressions, ask your instructor. Do not limit your learning to what has been provided to you. Learn to search for the information. Your instructor is the resource person for your active learning.

**Portfolio**

Everyone in the class must progress through the material in a certain sequence, in order to learn Japanese most efficiently and effectively and to balance the four skills. But these steps are not necessarily taken in a uniform pattern.

In order to control this individual learning pattern, each student, together with the instructor, must gain an understanding of his or her level. This is done by means of the portfolio for each and every student in the class.

**Examination**

There will be a mid-term exam after the fall break and a final exam during the exam period.

**Projects**

You will be asked to do one or two projects per semester.

**Grades**

Grade sheets will be distributed twice a semester: **Mid-October and mid-November**

The final grade is based on:

(1) regular attendance;
(2) consistent preparation for each class, within a reasonable time limit;
(3) quality of performance and project;
(4) consistent effort.

**General Policies**

- **Regular practice and study is the single most important requirement for learning Japanese in this class.** We have observed over and over again a strong correlation between steady study habits and performance in this class: We have **never** met a student who did well in this course without attending classes regularly. On the other hand, everyone who takes attendance seriously does well in the course.

- **Use Japanese as much as possible in all sessions.**

- **Communicate with your instructor regularly** via any method you may have: e-mail, phone, office visit, etc. Everyone has problems in learning Japanese. Silence or absence from classes is not an effective way to communicate your issues. No problem is a small problem. We deal with every issue seriously, so please bring any issues you have to us as soon and as often as possible.
### Class Schedule

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<th>Content</th>
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<td>Introduction and placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>川端康成について\n「千羽鶴」 「千羽鶴」 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>「千羽鶴」 「千羽鶴」 3 ～ 5</td>
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<td>9/28</td>
<td>「千羽鶴」 「森の夕日」 1 ～ 3</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>「千羽鶴」 「母の口紅」 1</td>
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<td>10/19</td>
<td>「千羽鶴」 「母の口紅」 2 ～ 4</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>「千羽鶴」 「二重星」 1 ～ 4</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>結論・映画へ</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>Movie</td>
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<td>No class (11/23-11/27)</td>
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<td>11/30</td>
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