COURSE DETAIL

JAPANESE GHOST AND FANTASY STORIES
Country Japan
Host Institution Keio University
Program(s) Keio University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Japanese
UCEAP Course Number 167
UCEAP Course Suffix W
UCEAP Official Title JAPANESE GHOST AND FANTASY STORIES
UCEAP Transcript Title JAPAN GHOST FNTSY
UCEAP Quarter Units 3.00
UCEAP Semester Units

2.00

Course Description

Modern Japanese literature is filled with ghosts and goblins—if you know where to look. This introductory course surveys some of the strangest, scariest, and wildest fiction in modern Japan. The course begins at the "beginning" of modern Japanese literature in the late nineteenth century up through more contemporary works, with the stories ranging from ghost stories and fairy tales to the literary equivalent of the splatter film.

The course addresses the following questions: How did the broad genre of what is today known in Japanese as *gensō bungaku* (roughly corresponding to supernatural, horror, and fantasy genres), emerge and develop as a set of assumptions about the nature of modern life in Japan? How do these assumptions challenge our way of interacting with the world, with other people, and ultimately with our own sense of self? What kind of new understandings of various boundaries—between the real and the unreal, the present and the past, the foreign and the native, the living and the dead—might these stories suggest? And how are these texts part of a larger global network of weird fiction—what, in other words, does it mean to call a Japanese text "Gothic"?

This class requires a significant amount of reading outside of class.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
N/A

Host Institution Course Title
GHOSTS AND GOBLINS IN MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE

Host Institution Course Details
https://gslbs.keio.jp/pub-syllabus/detail?ttblyr=2023&entno=12342&lang=en

Host Institution Campus Keio University
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department International Center
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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