

COURSE DETAIL

MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE

Country

Japan

Host Institution

Waseda University

Program(s)

Waseda University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Japanese

UCEAP Course Number

162

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE

UCEAP Transcript Title

MODERN JAPANESE LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course explores Japanese literature written in the wake of World War II, focusing on how writers grappled with the profound disruptions of defeat, occupation, memory, and reconstruction. Spanning from the immediate postwar period to contemporary works, class readings include short stories, novels, memoirs, essays, and manga by authors such as Dazai Osamu, Sakaguchi Ango, Ota Yoko, Enchi Fumiko, Oe Kenzaburo, and Kono Fumiyo. The course also considers broader historical and cultural contexts through critical texts such as John Dower's *Embracing Defeat*, and extend the inquiry into diasporic and transnational perspectives by reading works by Min Jin Lee and Kim Tal-su.

The course examines how literature reflects and interrogates key themes of the postwar condition—survival, trauma, gender and power, the legacy of imperialism, and the tension between memory and forgetting. Some knowledge of Japanese literature is preferred but not required.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

LITJ362L

Host Institution Course Title

JAPANESE LITERATURE AFTER 1945

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA104.php?pKey=210EX41500512025210EX4150021...>

Host Institution Campus

SILS

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

SILS

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)