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

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