

ANS 372
Japanese Popular Culture: Anime/Manga/Otaku (32243)
(cross listed: AAS 320)
Spring 2019

Instructor: Joseph C. Schaub, Ph.D.

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Course Meetings: TTH 11:00 am - 12:30 pm,

Office Hours: TTH 10:00 -- 10:50 am,

Office

Teaching Assistant:

Office Hours: TH 1:00--3:00 pm

Location: TBA

Course Description

This course examines a variety of Japanese popular manga and anime, focusing mainly on those works Japan has exported since becoming an economic superpower in the 1980s. We will explore utopian/dystopian expression in Japanese sci-fi narratives, examine the ways that the Japanese entertainment industry has responded to changing notions of gender, and chart the evolution of traditional genre categories as they accommodate new hybridic representations of the posthuman body. We will also consider the significance of global fandom with the rise of the transnational otaku, and its relevance to Japan's exercise of soft power.

Required Texts

Anime: A Critical Introduction (AACI), Denison, Rayna (2015)

ISBN: 978-1847884794

Otaku: Japan's Database Animals, Azuma, Hiroki (2009)

ISBN: 978-0816653522

Sailor Moon 1, Takeuchi, Naoko (2011)

ISBN: 978-1935429746

Fullmetal Alchemist, Arakawa, Hiromu, Volume 1 (2005)

ISBN: 978-1591169208

Course Objectives:

- Students will read, view, analyze, interpret, and write critically about contemporary Japanese popular media.
- Students will learn to perform close textual analysis, and write about their findings while considering external factors, such as audience reception and cultural contexts.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to visually decode complex media messages with culturally specific meanings through discussions and written tests.
- Students will conduct original research on a topic relevant to the study of Japanese popular culture, and write a seminar paper demonstrating their findings.

Course Work:

Students will be expected to view the films listed in the schedule below outside of class. I am placing each of the titles on reserve at the Fine Arts Library, but if you have another way to view them you are more than welcome to do so in whatever way works best for you. In addition, there are readings listed in the schedule, which you should read before the class where they are listed. Many of the readings will come from the required textbooks, but I have made others available on the Canvas site. There will also be discussion questions for each week that may pertain to the readings or film. Sometimes we will collect these and count what you hand in toward your class participation grade. You will be told ahead of time if we plan to collect your responses. In addition, there will be quizzes at the end of each unit. The quiz questions will be drawn from material we have reviewed in class and will be given in multiple formats (T/F, FITB, multiple choice, short ID, etc.). A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the class, and students will write a paper of 2000-2,500 words consisting of original research on a topic related to Japanese popular culture to be due on the last day of class.

Course Schedule:

Below is the list of screenings and readings for each week of class. In addition, assignments, readings, and other information can be found on the Canvas website at <https://utexas.instructure.com>. Changes to the schedule may be made if circumstances require. I will do my best to ensure that you receive the changes with as much advanced notice as possible, but please check the Canvas site regularly to stay informed.

Unit 1: Origins, Sci-Fi & Mecha

T Jan. 22 - Introduction to course and syllabus

TH Jan. 24 - AACI "Introduction," and - Ito, "History of Manga,"

Screen: *Osamu Tezuka's Metropolis* (Rintaro, 2001)

T Jan. 29 - AACI p. 51 - 54, & Chap. 4, 69 - 83

TH Jan. 31 - Schaub, "Mechatopia"

Screen: *Akira* (Otomo, 1988)

T Feb. 5 - AACI p. 31 - 43

TH Feb. 7 - Napier, "Akira: Revenge of the Abjected"

Screen: *Ghost in the Shell* (Oshii, 1995)

T Feb. 12 - Schaub: "Kusanagi's Body"

TH Feb. 14 - **Quiz, Unit 1**

Unit 2: Kawaii & Shōjo

Screen: *Urusei Yatsura* (Oshii, 1983)

T Feb. 19 - AACI Chap. 5, p. 85 - 99

TH Feb. 21 - Treat, "Yoshimoto Banana Writes Home" (p. 362-367)

Screen: *Spirited Away* (Miyazaki, 2001)

T Feb. 26 - AACI - Chap. 7, p. 117 - 132

Th Feb. 28 - Napier, "Spirited Away," p. 180-187

Screen: *Sailor Moon S* (Shibata, 2000)

T Mar. 5 - Sailor Moon 1, Grigsby "Sailor Moon"

TH Mar. 7 - **Quiz Unit 2**

Unit 3: Otaku & Shōnen

Screen: *Perfect Blue* (Kon, 1997) & *Paprika* (Kon, 2006)

T Mar. 12 - Kinsella, "Japanese Subculture in the 1990s," Schaub, "Otaku Evolution,"

TH Mar. 14 - Azuma, 25-95, 96-116, **Paper Topics Due**

Spring Break (Mar. 18--22)

Screen: *Neon Genesis Evangelion 1.11* (Anno, 2007)

T Mar. 26 - Schaub, "Monomyth to Mechamyth"

TH Mar. 28 - **Quiz Unit 3**

Unit 4: Horror Anime

Screen: *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust* (Kawajiri, 2000)

T Apr. 2 - AACI Chap. 9, p. 153 - 168

TH Apr. 4 - Reider, "The Appeal of *Kaidan*"

Screen: *xxxHolic: Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mizushima, 2007)

T Apr. 9 - Finish discussion of Horror Anime, (optional: Schaub, "When Cute Becomes Scary")

TH Apr. 11 - **Quiz Unit 4**

F Apr. 12: Susan Napier: "The Making of Miyazaki World," Ransom Center (more details on this lecture will be forthcoming)

Unit 5: New Hybrid Genres

Screen: *K-On! The Movie* (Yamada, 2011)

T Apr. 16 - AACI Chap. 6, p. 101-115

TH Apr. 18 - Discuss Nichijōkei

Screen: *Cowboy Bebop* (Watanabe, 2001)

T Apr. 23 - Nicholas, "The Work Which Becomes a New Genre Itself"

TH Apr. 25 - Schaub, "Revenge, Roads & Ronin", Discuss "Weird Westerns"

Screen: *Fullmetal Alchemist: Sacred Star of Milos* (Murata, 2011)

T Apr. 30 - Fullmetal Alchemist vol.1

TH May. 2 - Birmingham, "Antimodernism and ... Steampunk Anime," Discuss Steampunk

T May 7 - AACI Chap. 1, p. 15 - 29, p. 43-49, Final discussions of genre, anime, manga, fandom

TH May 9 -- Review for Final Exam, **Papers due**

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 - 9:00am - 12:00 noon.

Grading Policies

Flexibility is built into the assignments to support your success in this course. If you miss a smaller, class participation assignment, your grade will not be impacted significantly. Consequently, the final grades are firm, and no additional curve is available.

Grading Percentages:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Final Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

Final Grades are assigned as follows:

93-100 = A	73-76.9 = C
90-92.9 = A-	70-72.9 = C-
87-89.9 = B+	67-69.9 = D+
83-86.9 = B	63-66.9 = D
80-82.9 = B-	60-62.9 = D-
77-79.9 = C+	below 60 = F

Absences

Excused Absence: The only absences that will be considered excused are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to an emergency. If you plan to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday, please let us know at least two weeks in advance. You will not be penalized for this absence, although you will still be responsible for any work you will miss on that day if applicable. Check with us for details or arrangements.

If you have to be absent, ask a classmate for notes on any lessons you miss. If you find there are topics that we covered while you were gone that raise questions, you may come by during office hours or schedule a meeting to discuss. Email specific questions you have in advance so that we can make the most of our time. "What did I miss?" is not specific enough.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students have a right to an inclusive learning environment where they are respected, graded fairly, provided with opportunities to freely express opinions, and guaranteed privacy and confidentiality where appropriate. In return, each of us is responsible for treating others with respect, listening courteously and doing our best to make the learning environment supportive to all. If you are feeling that the class is not meeting this standard, please let the instructor or TA know so that the issue can be addressed as quickly as possible.

Names & Personal Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with students' legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." **Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT.** Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

University Resources for Students

If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. There are also a range of resources on campus

Services for Students with Disabilities

This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need specific arrangements in case the building needs to be evacuated, please let me know, but also contact Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329- 3986 (video phone). <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/about/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center

There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support.
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html>

The Sanger Learning Center

All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

ITS: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>

Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

BeVocal

BeVocal is a university-wide initiative to promote the idea that individual Longhorns have the power to prevent high-risk behavior and harm. At UT Austin all Longhorns have the power to intervene and reduce harm. To learn more about BeVocal and how you can help to build a culture of care on campus, go to: wellnessnetwork.utexas.edu/BeVocal.

Important Safety Information:

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.