



MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies 2021/2022

Classical Japanese Literature

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This course will be taught in Michaelmas Term (8 lectures, 2 tutorials) and Hilary Term (8 seminars).

Lectures: MT Mondays 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm. In MT 2021, lectures will be conducted as live video lecture/discussion sessions, with additional resources provided through Canvas.

Tutorials: time and place to be arranged with each student.

Seminar: HT Mondays 4-5pm.

Prerequisites: None.

Course description:

This course provides a survey of texts and topics in Japanese literature from earliest times to the early nineteenth century, with readings in English translation from a wide range of primary sources as well as suggested secondary readings on key topics in the literature of each period. The course aims to give students an overview of key texts, authors, and genres in the pre-modern Japanese literary tradition, while also helping them develop critical tools for thinking about that tradition and for approaching literary texts in a variety of ways.

Students should attend the lecture series in Classical Japanese Literature (MT) and are also encouraged to participate in the seminar series Topics in Classical Poetry (HT) for focused small-group discussion of selected poems of various periods along with presentations on key secondary resources and research methods. Interested students will be offered the chance to present on their own research or a relevant source.

Course Assessment:

The main assessment will be through a three-hour examination in Trinity Term.

All students will be required to submit two essays on assigned topics (one by the end of week 4), to be discussed in tutorial.

Suggested introductory reading:

- Haruo Shirane, Tomi Suzuki, and David Lurie eds., *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)
- Donald Keene, *Seeds in the Heart: Japanese Literature from Earliest Times to the Late Sixteenth Century* (Columbia University Press, 1999)
- Haruo Shirane, Sonja Arntzen et al. eds., *Traditional Japanese Literature* (Columbia University Press, 2007)
- Sumie Jones and Ken Watanabe eds., *An Edo Anthology: Literature from Japan's Mega-City, 1750-1850* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013)

Statement of Coverage

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2021. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is accurate as at 29 September 2021, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.