



## ***Classical Japanese Literature***

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*This course will be taught in Michaelmas Term (8 lectures, 1 tutorial) and Hilary Term (7 seminars).*

Lectures: MT Mondays 4-5pm.

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

Seminar: HT weeks 1-7, 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 participate in the seminar series Topics in Classical Poetry (HT) for focused small-group discussion of selected poems of various periods along with key secondary resources and research methods. In the final seminar meeting, 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.

Students will be required to submit two essays on agreed topics (one by the end of MT week 4), each to be discussed in a tutorial/seminar meeting.

### **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 2024. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

**Disclaimer**

The information in this document is accurate as at 19 September 2024, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://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.