



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND WORLD LITERATURE

2026 Summer Term 1 Go Global Summer Seminar
Topics in Modern Japanese Literature and Culture (3 credits)
Film Adaptations of Japanese Literature
JPST395B

The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies acknowledges that the land on which we are situated in the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) People.

INSTRUCTOR Nina Langton
E-MAIL nina.langton@ubc.ca
OFFICE HOURS By appointment

Academic Calendar Entry

A range of literary and cultural topics such as film adaptations, travel writing, manga, and horror.
Prerequisite: 3rd year standing.

Course Format

- 1) Pre-departure (Weeks 1 and 2): Students will receive pre-departure information and guidance to familiarize themselves with the course objectives, travel logistics, and cultural etiquette. Students will also engage in reading theory regarding adaptation to film, watch pre-recorded lectures regarding the context of the works covered, and prepare for the immersion experience by reading and watching the works and discussing them synchronously and asynchronously.
- 2) On-site immersion in Japan (Weeks 2 and 3): The two-week trip to Japan will involve required readings, field trips (2-3 days per week) including film museums, theme parks and sites of significance that appear in the works. Students will be expected to submit reflective writing concerning the works and maintain a journal recording and reflecting on their fieldwork.
- 3) Post-immersion reflection and project (Weeks 5 and 6): Upon returning, students will engage in reflective writing, projects, and essay-writing to consolidate their learning experiences.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives

Students will read significant literary works and view their film adaptations. These works will be set in the areas of Japan that we will be visiting (Tōkyō, Kyōto, Kōbe, Hiroshima). The works should be read or viewed prior to departure in order that the time spent in the field can be maximized. While in Japan, we will be discussing the works and films, and experiencing neighbourhoods, museums, attractions, temples and shrines that are relevant to the works. Students should be prepared for an intense schedule of study and cultural experiences that will be best appreciated with a strong commitment to making the most of the time available. A strong interest in Japanese culture, and an open mindset towards exploring new experiences are highly recommended.



Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, depending on their effort and ability, students should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding, through comprehension, interpretation and reflection exercises, of the historical, cultural, literary and production context of works from various genres of Japanese literature.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding, through comprehension quizzes and critical analysis, of theoretical approaches to the analysis of film adaptations of literary works.
- 3) Apply critical analytical skills to the interpretation of text-based literary works and film narratives.
- 4) Develop an awareness of film techniques and production.
- 5) Reflect critically on their experience of apprehending a culture through direct contact.

Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other similar tools, to complete or support the completion of any form of assignment or assessment in this course is not allowed and would be considered academic misconduct. The assignments in this course should be completed in your own words, after reflection and the application of your critical thinking skills. You will not be penalized for less-than-perfect grammar or inelegant style; however, word choice is important in relating your intended meaning, and your work must be comprehensible. If you feel that you cannot express your idea(s) in comprehensible English, you should consult with me about options.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

The course is evaluated on a numeric basis. The passing grade is 50%.

Your grade is an accumulation of your work throughout the seminar.

- Pre-departure assignments 5% (L.O. 1, 3)
- Canvas Discussion Threads 25% (5x5%) (L.O. 3)
- Online quizzes on theory, plot and recorded lectures 16% (L.O. 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Field work assignments 14% (7x2%) (L.O. 1, 5).
- Photo-journal 30% (L.O. 5)
- Participation 10%

Participation is obviously a crucial part of this experience. You will be graded based on the following criteria: (content created by Takasaki sensei)

Criterion	3	2	1
Attendance		Attending all required sessions, activities, and site visits. Being on time for all meetings, activities, and assignments.	Not attending all activities. Often late, holding up the group's activities.
Engagement with activities	Showing excellent initiative during fieldwork (e.g., asking questions, taking notes, observing closely)	Showing satisfactory engagement	Requiring considerably more interest or initiative.



Cultural competence	Always demonstrating respect, curiosity, and an active effort to understand cultural differences. Always practicing cultural humility and trying to increase one's cultural competency through listening, reflection, and behavior.	Showing some signs of sensitivity to cultural differences, and some attempt to increase cultural competency	Requiring considerably more effort at understanding cultural differences
Collaboration with peers		Always being prepared, responsible, and supportive within peer group. Always showing respect for others' time and responsibilities.	Requiring more effort to work collaboratively with peers.

Please note that the running total on Canvas will not be an accurate reflection of your grade as the online quizzes are not weighted on Canvas the way they are in this evaluation breakdown.

Required Readings and Videos

Most texts are available through the Library Online Course Reserves link on Canvas. Films may have to be paid for on particular streaming services, or borrowed from the Reserve Desk at the Koerner or UBCO libraries.

Coppola, Sofia, dir. 2004. *Lost in Translation*. Focus Features, DVD.

Curti, Giorgio Hadi. 2008. "The Ghost in the City and a Landscape of Life: A Reading of Difference in Shirow and Oshii's *Ghost in the Shell*." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 26: 87 – 106.

Hamaguchi Ryūsuke, dir. 2021. *Drive My Car*. TC Entertainment. DVD.

Hutcheon, Linda. 2013. *A Theory of Adaptation*. Routledge. Chapter 1: "Beginning to Theorize Adaptation: What, Who, Why, How, Where, When?"

Murakami Haruki. 2014. *Drive My Car*. In *Men Without Women*, translated by Philip Gabriel and Ted Goossen. Harvill Secker.

Murasaki Shikibu. 1976. *The Tale of Genji*. Translated by Edward G. Seidensticker. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc. Chapter 1, "The Paulownia Court."

Nosaka Akiyuki. 1978. "A Grave of Fireflies". Translated by James R. Abrams. *Japan Quarterly* 25, no. 4: 445 – 463.

Oshii, Mamoru, dir. 1995. *Ghost in the Shell*. DVD. Production I.G., Inc.



Reich, Paul D. 2024. "Under the Influence: Adaptation, Adultery, and Acceptance in Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and Ryusuke Hamaguchi's *Drive My Car*." *Comparative Drama* 58 (1-2): 183 – 204.

Sanders, Rupert, dir. 2017. *Ghost in the Shell*. DVD. Paramount Pictures.

Shirow, Masamune. 1991. *The Ghost in the Shell* Volume 1. New York: Kodansha Comics.
Chapters 1 (Prologue), 3 (Junk Jungle), 9 (Bye Bye Clay) and 11 (Ghost Coast)

Takahata Isao, dir. 1988. *Grave of the Fireflies*. Tōkyō: Studio Ghibli. DVD.

Wells, Paul. 2007. "Classic Literature and Animation: All Adaptations are Equal, but Some are More Equal than Others." In *The Cambridge Companion to Literature on Screen*, edited by Deborah Cartmell and Imelda Whelehan, 199 – 211. Cambridge University Press.

Course schedule

- Week 1 Synchronous classes on Zoom
Adaptation theory (online lectures, quizzes) and *The Tale of Genji*
Watch Coppola, 2003 *Lost in Translation*, and associated quizzes and assignments
Read and watch *Grave of the Fireflies* and associated quizzes and assignments
- Week 2 Asynchronous classes: *Ghost in the Shell* and *Drive My Car* and associated quizzes and assignments
- Week 3
- May 24 Sun Arrive in Tokyo (student's own arrangements)
May 25 Mon Group meal and Orientation; field trip - *Drive My Car* – Murakami Haruki Library (Waseda University)
May 26 Tues *Lost in Translation* and *Ghost in the Shell* - Shinjuku and Shibuya Walking Tour
May 27 Wed *Grave of the Fireflies* - Ghibli Museum field trip
May 28 Thurs [JPST 370]
May 29 Fri [JPST 370]
May 30 Sat Train to Kyoto
May 31 Sun [JPST 370]
- Week 4
- June 1 Mon [JPST 370]
June 2 Tues [JPST 370]
June 3 Wed Field trip Tōei Film Theme Park and Kinkakuji
June 4 Thurs *Grave of the Fireflies* - Field trip to Kōbe
June 5 Fri *Drive My Car* - Day trip to Hiroshima and Peace Park/Museum
June 6 Sat *The Tale of Genji* - Uji
June 7 Sun end of in-country part of course
- Weeks 5 - 6
- post-trip projects Photo Journal due June 19.



Missed Activity Policy

You are expected to submit assignments when due, and penalties will be applied if you have not consulted with me regarding extenuating circumstances. Make sure you check Canvas regularly for due dates, and expect online quizzes at least once a week.

Email Policy

All email communication to the professor must be professional, courteous and concise, with the course indicated in the subject line or sent through Canvas. Responses can usually be expected within 24 hours during weekdays.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the *Academic Calendar* [here](#) and on the FCCS site here: <https://fcss.ok.ubc.ca/student-resources/academic-integrity/>

Indigenous Programs and Services

The primary goal of the Indigenous Programs and Services is to provide culturally appropriate services and support to First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. Please contact us if you have any questions or inquiries. Web: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/indigenous-students/>

The Global Engagement Office

The Global Engagement Office provides advising and resources to assist International students in navigating immigration, health insurance, and settlement matters, as well as opportunities for intercultural learning, and resources for Go Global experiences available to all UBC Okanagan students, and more. Come and see us – we are here to help! You may also contact geo.ubco@ubc.ca

Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness offers a range of student health and wellness services, including a health clinic, counsellors, and health promotion programs. Students are encouraged to stay at home if they have a minor or communicable illness (such as flu-like symptoms) to prevent further spread of illness to other students, staff, or faculty. If students are too ill to attend class, the student should contact the instructor immediately and submit a "Self Declaration of Absence Due to Illness or Injury" form: [Student Declaration of Absence Due to Illness or Injury \(PDF\)](#) For more information about missing class due to illness, please visit: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/student-health-clinic/missing-class-due-to-illness/>

Please note: Use of the self-declaration form during the final exam period is not accepted—students are advised to communicate directly with their instructor if they are sick and unable to write final



examinations. **This declaration is not an exemption from any exams, papers, or projects that were missed during the time of absence and does not modify any academic obligations.**

For long-term or ongoing illness or injury requiring academic accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Centre](#).

If students would like to access a UBC physician, nurse or counsellor, please call our office at 250 807-9270 or visit our website: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/>

The UBC Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a free, 24/7 wellness resource for students. Services include personal counselling, life coaching, group programs and more, based on your needs: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness/student-assistance-program/>

Here2Talk

Here2Talk is a free, immediate, 24/7 tele-counselling service that was custom developed for BC's post-secondary students. Students can reach out as often as needed, anytime, from anywhere in the world, any day of the week. Canada-wide toll free: 1 877 857 3397

Canada-wide direct: 604 642 5212

www.here2talk.ca

Student Counselling Services

Student Counselling Services is an on-campus service that offers confidential appointments for UBCO students, Monday - Friday.

Call to book an appointment: 250 807 9270

students.ok.ubc.ca/counselling

Student Learning Hub

The Student Learning Hub is your go-to resource for free math, science, writing, and language learning support. The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and year levels to access a range of supports that include **tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as help with study skills and learning strategies**. Students are encouraged to visit often and early to build the skills, strategies and behaviors that are essential to being a confident and independent learner. For more information, please visit the Hub's website.

LIB 237 250.807.8491

Email: learning.hub@ubc.ca

Web: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/learning-hub/>

Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) Program

AIM is a program that provides help with academic integrity (AI) issues for undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact the [Student Learning Hub](#) and ask specifically for an AIM appointment.

Library Information

The **Library** is available for research support and can be accessed [here](#).

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre

The DRC facilitates disability-related accommodations and programming initiatives to remove barriers for students with disabilities and ongoing medical conditions. If you require academic accommodations to achieve the objectives of a course please contact the DRC at:

UNC 215 250.807.8053



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Email: drc.questions@ubc.ca

Web: <https://students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/disability-resources/>

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office

Through leadership, vision, and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office (EIO) develops action strategies in support of efforts to embed equity and inclusion in the daily operations across the campus. The EIO provides education and training from cultivating respectful, inclusive spaces and communities to understanding unconscious/implicit bias and its operation within in campus environments. UBC Policy 3 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of BC's Human Rights Code. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, educational programs, discrimination or harassment please contact the EIO (UNC 325H).

Email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca

Web: www.equity.ok.ubc.ca

Office of the Ombudperson

The Office of the Ombudperson for Students is an independent, confidential and impartial resource to ensure students are treated fairly. The Ombuds Office helps students navigate campus-related fairness concerns. They work with UBC community members individually and at the systemic level to ensure students are treated fairly and can learn, work and live in a fair, equitable and respectful environment. Ombuds helps students gain clarity on UBC policies and procedures, explore options, identify next steps, recommend resources, plan strategies and receive objective feedback to promote constructive problem solving. If you require assistance, please feel free to reach out for more information or to arrange an appointment.

UNC 328 250.807.9818

Email: ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca

Web: www.ombudsoffice.ubc.ca

FCCS Communications Portal

Consider signing up for our FCCS Communications portal for students in our undergraduate and graduate programs in Canvas.

This one-stop space will be used to keep students informed and up to date with important information related to your academic matters as well as updated on FCCS and campus events.

Self enrol: <https://canvas.ubc.ca/enroll/3KBIFY>

SAFEWALK

Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250.807.8076. For more information, visit: <http://security.ok.ubc.ca/welcome.html>