

Course Handbook: Japanese

Faculty of Oriental Studies

Academic Year 2017-18

This handbook applies to students starting the course in Michaelmas Term 2017/Final Honour School in Michaelmas Term 2019. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

NOTE: The Examination Regulations relating to all Oriental Studies courses are available at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations, you should always follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact academic.administrator@orinst.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as of 1st October 2017. However, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes. Students will also be informed.

Introduction

The Oxford BA course in Japanese is a four year course, including a compulsory study period of one year in Japan in the second year. The course is comprehensive and demanding, revolving around intensive work on the written and spoken language through all four years, combined with both general and specialised study of Japanese culture, civilisation and society. The language teaching takes place in classes and small groups and in language laboratories. It includes work conducted by experienced native speakers.

The B.A. Honours course in Japanese at Oxford aims:

- to give students a thorough grounding in modern written and spoken Japanese, and in the written classical language;
- to ensure that they have a good general knowledge of Japanese civilisation, culture, history and society; and
- to allow them to do in-depth, specialised study from a range of subjects, including both classical and modern literature, linguistics, pre-modern and modern history, anthropology, politics, economics, and art.

Japanese has been taught as a degree subject at Oxford since 1963. The course started with only one lecturer, but the field has shown a dramatic expansion in both staff and student numbers since then. Oxford is today a major national and international centre for the study of Japan. The University currently has sixteen senior faculty members and three full-time language instructors engaged in research and teaching in fields related to Japan. It is possible to take Chinese, Korean or Tibetan studies as a subsidiary language for the BA in Oriental Studies (Japanese) degree, which will give you the opportunity to study the subsidiary language to intermediate level.

The number of undergraduates reading for the degree of B.A. Honours in Oriental Studies (Japanese) range between fifty and sixty, and there are usually ten or so graduate students in Japanese in Faculty of Oriental Studies at any one time.

There are two centres for the teaching programme in the University, The Oriental Institute, and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies:

The Oriental Institute

The Oriental Institute is centrally located close to the Ashmolean Museum. It is in this Institute that the core curriculum of language classes for the B.A. Honours degree in Japanese Studies is taught, and it is where the teachers of Japanese from the Faculty of Oriental Studies have their offices. Other fields in Oriental Studies, including Korean, and Tibetan, share the same building. Korean, Tibetan, and Chinese are offered as subsidiary or optional languages for students of Japanese. There is a common room where tea and coffee are available and staff and students can meet.

The Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

The [Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies](#) was established in 1981 with a generous endowment from the Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., and since then it has become one of the top British – and indeed European – centres for the study of modern Japan. It forms part of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies in the University's Social Science Division and contributes to several of the degree programs offered by the University at both the undergraduate and graduate level. It is also fully integrated into St Antony's College, which treats it as one of its area centres.

The present building was opened in 1993. It includes a 150-seat lecture theatre, shared between the Institute and the College, other teaching rooms, and offices for academic staff and visitors. The Institute also houses the Bodleian Japanese Library, the University's research and teaching collection of Japanese books. Academic staff housed in the Institute teach Modern Japanese History, Japanese Politics, Society, and Economics. Some staff contribute teaching to wider University courses in Politics and Economics (P.P.E.), as well as Anthropology and Geography. The academic staff also supervise graduate students in several faculties across the University.

The University possesses a large research collection of books in Japanese and about Japan in western languages. The University's [Ashmolean Museum](#) has a fine collection of Japanese art, particularly strong in holdings of ceramics.

Bodleian Japanese Library

The Bodleian Japanese Library <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bjl> was opened to readers in April 1993 in the newly constructed building of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies. The Library, combining Bodley's extensive holdings on Japan with the residual collection of the former Nissan Institute Library, houses the University's principal collections in the humanities and social sciences, which relate to the history and culture of Japan from the dawn of her civilisation to the present day.

A significant collection of works on Japan on the history and social sciences in Japan since the Meiji Restoration has been built up; the Library, comprising about 120,000 volumes, offers one of the best research collections for Japanese studies in Europe.

Oriental Institute Library

The Japanese collection in the Oriental Institute Library has moved to the Bodleian Japanese Library from the Oriental Institute Library, but readers can call books from off-site storage to the Reading Room of the Oriental Institute.

Eastern Art Library

The Eastern Art Library <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/sackler/collections/easternart>, housed in the Sackler Library, contains the University's research collection on Japanese art, in both Japanese and Western languages.

Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

The Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics, <http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research-centre-japanese-language-and-linguistics> located at 41 Wellington Square, was established in March 2009 within the Faculty of Oriental Studies to function as an umbrella for research activities related to Japanese language and linguistics through the University. The Centre serves as a forum for publicising teaching, lectures, seminars, and other activities of interest to Japanese linguistics, and as a point of access to information for prospective graduate students interested in Japanese language and linguistics. The founding project was the creation of the Verb Semantics and Argument Realisation of Japanese research group.

The Verb Semantics and Argument Realisation of Japanese (VSARP) project is now concluded. It ran from 1 January 2009 until June 2014. It was funded by a generous award of almost £1 million from the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](#) (AHRC). One important outcome of the VSARPJ project is the [Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese](#) (OCOJ), which is the most extensive and detailed parsed corpus

of Old Japanese in existence. The OCOJ continues as an independent research project.

First Year

The first year is dedicated to intensive work on the Japanese languages and study of the history and culture of Japan, and East Asia in general. At the end of the first year you will take Prelims which examines the language and history and culture work you have done during the first year.

Subjects taken in the first year:

1. Modern Japanese I
2. Modern Japanese II
3. East Asia Survey: Japan

Second Year

The second year of the course will be spent at Kobe University in Japan for continued extensive language study, combined with the study of civilisation, culture and history. Details about the year abroad will be given during the course of the first year.

Third and Fourth Year

In the third and fourth years the regular language work continues, you will begin study in the classical language. An important part of these two years is specialised work within subject areas chosen by yourself from a wide array of available options, including both classical and modern literature, linguistics, pre-modern and modern history, anthropology, politics, economics, and art. In the fourth year you also write a maximum 15,000 word dissertation on a subject of your own choice under supervision. At the end of the fourth year you will be examined in all the work you have done over the four years.

It is possible to study an additional language (from Chinese, Korean, and Tibetan) in the third and fourth years of the course.

Japanese	Japanese with a subsidiary language
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modern Japanese I 2. Modern Japanese II 3. Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper) 4. Classical Japanese 5. Core special subject option I [essays] 6. Special text option I [translation and commentary] 7. Dissertation 8. Special text option II [translation and commentary] 9. Special subject option II [essays] 10. Either Special text option III or Special subject option III 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modern Japanese I 2. Modern Japanese II 3. Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper) 4. Classical Japanese 5. Core special subject option I [essays] 6. Special text option I [translation and commentary] 7. Dissertation A Subsidiary Language: 8. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Texts 9. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan History and Culture 10. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Language

Special Subject Options

Core Special Subject Options

(all Michaelmas Term only)

- Classical Japanese Literature
- Japanese Linguistics
- Modern Japanese Literature

Other Special Subject Options

- Economy of Japan (MT 2017)
- History of the Japanese Language (HT)
- Japanese Art (HT)
- Japanese Politics (MT2017, HT2018, MT2018, HT2019)
- Japanese Society (HT and first 4 weeks of TT) - only for third years
- Modern History of Japan (MT)
- Pre-modern Japanese History I: to 1185 (HT and other terms by arrangement: not available 2017-2018)
- Pre-modern Japanese History II: 1185 to 1853 (TT and other terms by arrangement: not available 2017-2018)
- Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry (HT)
- Topics in Modern Japanese Literature (HT)

Special Text Options

- Classical Japanese I: The Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book (MT2017, MT2018)
- Classical Japanese II: Warrior Tales (HT2018)
- Japanese Linguistics I: Boku wa unagi da (MT)
- Japanese Linguistics II: Linguistic variation (HT)
- Japanese Linguistics III: Old Japanese (TT)
- Special Texts Japanese Politics (MT2017, HT2018, MT2018, HT2019)
- Modern Literature I: Gender in Modern Japanese Literature (HT)
- Modern Literature II: Trauma and Narrative in Modern Japanese Literature (TT)
- Special Texts Japanese History I: to 1185 (HT)
- Special Texts Economy of Japan (MT2017)
- Special Texts: Japanese History I: to 1185 (NB: not available 2017-2018)

Teaching Staff

Teaching Staff from Oriental Studies:

Dr Linda Flores, Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Literature (Pembroke College)
Professor Bjarke Frellesvig, Professor of Japanese Linguistics (Hertford College)
Dr Jennifer Guest, Associate Professor of Classical Japanese Literature (Queen's College)
Dr James Lewis, Associate Professor of Korean History (Wolfson College)
Mr Laurence Mann, Departmental Lecturer in Japanese
Dr Clare Pollard, Curator of Japanese Art (Ashmolean Museum)
Ms Junko Hagiwara, Senior Japanese language instructor
Mrs. Keiko Harada, Faculty Tutor in Japanese
Ms Hiroe Kaji, Japanese language instructor
Ms Kaori Nishizawa, Japanese language instructor

Teaching staff from the Nissan Institute:

Professor Roger Goodman, Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies (St Antony's College)

Professor Takehiko Kariya, Professor of Japanese Sociology (St Antony's College)

Professor Sho Konishi, Associate Professor of Modern Japanese history (St Antony's College)

Professor Ian Neary, Professor of Japanese Politics (St Antony's College)

Professor Hugh Whittaker, Professor in the Economy of Japan

Compulsory Subjects

First Year: Modern Japanese I and Modern Japanese II

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Language Classes: approximately 10 hours per week; throughout the academic year. Grammatical

Analysis: one weekly class in Hilary Term.

Course description:

You will be taught how to read and write Japanese and how to translate from English into Japanese.

Language classes will prepare you for the examination at the end of your third term.

First Year: East Asia Survey: Japan

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

On average just over 2 lectures per week; throughout the academic year with essay tutorials every two weeks. You will write 12 essays over the academic year.

Course description:

Lectures in the first two terms will cover all of East Asian history with a focus on Japan in East Asia.

Lectures in the third term will focus entirely on modern and contemporary Japan. Preparation for the examination at the end of your third term will be a combination of lectures and essay tutorials.

FHS: Modern Japanese I and Modern Japanese II

Course description:

The two papers in Modern Japanese will test your ability to translate into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as well as writing in Japanese. The teaching directly preparing you for these papers will be language classes, text classes, and text tutorials.

FHS: Spoken Japanese

Course description:

The paper in spoken Japanese will be taken in Hilary Term of the fourth year. It will test your ability to understand and produce spoken Japanese. The Spoken paper counts as half a paper. Most of the teaching directly preparing you for the paper in spoken Japanese will be language classes.

FHS: Classical Japanese

Course description:

The paper in Classical Japanese will take the form of translation into English of Classical Japanese set texts and unseen texts, with a small amount of translation into English of kanbun set texts. There will be classes and tutorials in Classical Japanese set texts (including kanbun) in the third year and classes on translation of unseen texts throughout the fourth year.

FHS: Dissertation

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Third and Fourth Years. Usually two hours of supervision in TT of the third year and three hours in MT and HT of the fourth year.

Teaching staff:

Individual supervisors depending on topic.

Course description:

During your fourth year on the course you will produce a dissertation on a topic relating to Japan. You should already be thinking about your dissertation topic in the third year, and your topic may well be informed by option work you have done on the course. For the dissertation you are expected to utilise your Japanese language skills in your research on your topic. The dissertation should be between 12,000 and 15,000 words, including footnotes and endnotes, but not including the bibliography. You should use the style sheet appropriate to the discipline in which you are working.

For the submission deadline you should look up the General Regulations at the beginning of the Oriental Studies section of the Examination Regulations.

Core Special Subjects

CORE: Classical Japanese Literature: Ancient to Early Modern

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

(Dr Jennifer Guest) MT2017: Mr Laurence Mann

Course description:

This course provides a survey of classical Japanese literature from earliest times to the early nineteenth century, with readings in English translation from a wide range of important works as well as suggested secondary readings on key topics in the literature of each period.

Week 1: What factors make a text classical, literary, or Japanese? (Does the Kojiki qualify?)

Week 2: The meaning of a "good poem" in early Japan

Week 3: Memoirs, diaries, and biographies in the Heian court

Week 4: Gender and genre in the mid-Heian classics

Week 5: Buddhist themes in medieval poetry and anecdotal literature

Week 6: Portrayals of warriors and warfare in medieval prose and theatre

Week 7: Humour in Edo literature

Week 8: Reflections of earlier classical literature in Edo prose and haikai poetry

CORE: Japanese Linguistics

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

Course description:

This option is designed to give an overview of the Japanese language and linguistics through reading and writing of essays on selected topics across the major fields of linguistics, beginning with a look at the main characteristics of Japanese as compared to other languages. Next we look at variation within the Japanese language, considering in turn sociological characteristics of the speech situation (e.g., status and keigo), of the speaker (e.g., gender), and of the speech community as a whole (e.g., dialect region). We will also examine loanwords in the Japanese vocabulary, lexical stratification, and some selected aspects of Japanese grammar, focusing on transitivity in particular. Finally we will work on a syntactic description of sentences selected from naturalistic data in Modern Japanese.

Week 1: Identify, describe and discuss three main features of the Japanese language

Week 2: Honorific language (keigo) in Japanese, including its acquisition and use

Week 3: Gender as a factor in language variation in Japanese

Week 4: Describing the features of a spoken dialect text in Japanese (to be distributed)

Week 5: Loanwords in Japanese

Week 6: Lexical stratification

Week 7: Syntactic description of a given set of Japanese sentences

Week 8: The notion of transitivity and its role (including transitivity pairs) in Japanese

CORE: Modern Japanese Literature: The Invention of Modern Japanese Literature

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

Dr Linda Flores

Course description:

This option provides an overview of important literary works and writers in the period spanning from the middle of the Edo to the beginning of the 20th century. We will explore key issues in Japanese literary studies including modernity, the self, identity, and gender. This option will examine the development of the concept of modern Japanese literature and explore the ways in which that development accompanied the rise of Japan as a modern nation. Lectures and tutorials will address both the social and historical context of the works under examination as well as closer readings of the texts themselves.

Week 1: What is 'Modern' 'Japanese' 'Literature'?

Week 2: The Edo Period and the Invention of Japan

Week 3: Defining Japan, Defining Women

Week 4: Civilisation and Enlightenment

Week 5: The Invention of Literature

Week 6: Women Writers and the Reform of Tanka Poetry

Week 7: The Rise of Empire

Week 8: Japanese Naturalism and the 'I-novel'

Special Subjects

Special Subject Option: Economy of Japan

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Hugh Whittaker

Course description:

This option explores the rise of the Japanese economy and its subsequent problems, looking at some of the controversies and contrasting approaches which have framed our understanding. A perspective of comparative capitalism will be adopted. Readings will be available in the Bodleian Japanese Library.

Special Subject Option: History of the Japanese Language

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

Course description:

This option focuses on the development of the Japanese language from Old Japanese as it appears in the earliest attested writings through to written and spoken Modern Japanese within the phonology, morphology and syntax of the language. Other themes covered will be the reconstruction of even earlier language stages than that of Old Japanese, the origins and development of the scripts used to write Japanese, dialectal and other variation within pre-modern Japanese, and the influence from foreign languages, both Chinese and European, on the Japanese language. Students taking this option should also follow Professor Frellesvig's lecture series History of the Japanese language and Introduction to Old Japanese in Hilary Term.

Topics covered may include:

Proto-Japanese and Japanese before Old Japanese; Japanese scripts; The sound system of Old Japanese and phonological changes; The Eastern Old Japanese dialects; Old Japanese morphology and later changes in inflection and verb morphology; Historical syntax; External influences on Japanese.

Special Subject Option: Japanese Art

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

Dr Clare Pollard

Course description:

This option provides an introduction to Japanese art of the Meiji and Taisho eras, with reference to the collections of the Ashmolean Museum. The course will explore developments during this important transitional period of Japanese art as artists and makers adapted to changes following the opening of Japan by western powers and the Meiji Restoration. Students taking this option should also follow Dr Pollard's series of lectures and object-based sessions which take place in the Ashmolean Museum.

Special Subject Option: Japanese Politics**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

MT2017, HT2018, MT2018, HT2019

Teaching staff:

Professor Ian Neary

Course description:

This course provides an introduction to Japanese politics.

Aims of the course: To see how an advanced, industrial urban society such as Japan can be studied using the methods of political science; and to get a firm understanding of how Japanese government works. Major themes to be covered include modern political history, the structures and institutions of contemporary politics: parties, elections, bureaucracies, and policymaking. It will be possible to study a number of contemporary policy areas in depth, including welfare policy, foreign and defence policy, industrial policy among others. We will look at the micro level of policy making while also relating this to the wider political and economic arena both inside and outside Japan. Students taking this option should also follow Professor Neary's lecture series on Japanese Politics which take place Fridays at 12-1 in the Nissan Institute. The lectures start in Michaelmas Term, so those taking the option in Hilary Term must also follow the lectures in Michaelmas Term.

Tutorial topics will be chosen from:

The Political reforms of the Occupation; The Liberal Democratic Party; The opposition parties; Election systems; Local Government; Interest Groups; Industrial and Agricultural Policy; Foreign and Defence Policy; Human Rights, ODA and FDI; Environment Policies and Citizens Movements; Welfare politics.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

Hook, Glenn D. 2005. Japan's International Relations: Politics, Economics and Security, Routledge.

Neary, Ian J. 2002., The State and Politics in Japan, Blackwell.

McCargo, Duncan. 2004. Contemporary Japan, Palgrave.

Shinoda Tomohito, 2013 Contemporary Japanese Politics, Columbia.

Special Subject Option: Japanese Society**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Hilary Term and first 4 weeks of Trinity Term

(Please note that this option is only available for third years)

Teaching staff:

Professor Roger Goodman

Course description:

This option has two main aims: (a) to provide an introduction to Japanese society from an anthropological perspective and (b) to show how the study of Japan can contribute to mainstream anthropological theory. Major themes which will be covered include notions of personhood, rituals and symbols, time and space, structure and agency, continuity and change, and the construction of ethnic, gender, sexual and minority identities. It will be possible to study a number of contemporary social institutions in depth, including the Japanese educational, legal, medical, welfare, company, household and kinship systems, new religions and the worlds of traditional arts and popular culture. At the micro level, the details of these operations and the ideologies which support them will be examined, while at the macro level the course will explore their relation to other social institutions and the wider political and economic arena both inside and outside Japan. Students taking this option should also follow Professor Goodman's lecture series Japanese Society in Hilary Term.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

Hendry, Joy. 2013. *Understanding Japanese Society* (4th edition). Routledge.
Martinez, D. P. (ed.). 2007. *Modern Japanese Culture and Society* (4 Vols). Routledge.
Nakane, Chie. 1973. *Japanese Society*. Penguin.
Robertson, Jennifer (ed.). 2005. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*. Blackwells.
Ryang, Sonia. 2004. *Japan and National Anthropology: A Critique*. RoutledgeCurzon.
Sugimoto, Yoshio. 2010. *An Introduction to Japanese Society* (3rd edition). CUP.

Special Subject Option: Modern History of Japan**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Michaelmas Term.

Teaching staff:

(Dr Sho Konishi) MT2018: Dr Alice Freeman

Course description:

This option offers a broad introduction to the cultural and intellectual life of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japan in the wider world. We will read both primary texts in translation and secondary works. Assigned readings consist of all common readings and your choice of text(s) from the list of selected readings or outside the list. Common readings will be on reserve at the Bodleian Japanese Library. Some suggested theoretical readings are also listed throughout the syllabus, which should prove helpful for future research and writing on Japanese history.

Special Subject Option: Pre-modern Japanese History I: to 1185**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

(Hilary Term and other terms by arrangement.) **Not available in 2017-18.**

Teaching staff:

Dr James B Lewis

Course description:

The narrative of Japanese history can be broken into three main divisions: to 1185, 1185 to 1853, and 1853 to the present. Japanese Pre-modern history options cover the first two divisions. The essay questions are thematic and range over institutions, religions, politics, intellectual concerns, economy, and foreign relations.

Special Subject Option: Pre-modern Japanese History II: 1185 to 1853

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

(Trinity Term and other terms by arrangement.) **Not available in 2017-18.**

Teaching staff:

Dr James B Lewis

Course description:

The narrative of Japanese history can be broken into three main divisions: to 1185, 1185 to 1853, and 1853 to the present. Japanese Pre-modern history options cover the first two divisions. The essay questions are thematic and range over institutions, religions, politics, intellectual concerns, economy, and foreign relations.

Special Subject Option: Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

(Dr Jennifer Guest) HT2018: Mr Laurence Mann

Course description:

This option focuses on poetry of the Heian, medieval, and early modern periods as well as its various literary and social contexts. Students taking this option should follow the seminar 'Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry' in HT, which involves discussion of selected waka, kanshi, and haikai poems in the original language (with an eye to understanding form and content rather than for translation as set text) as well as a closer look at some premodern manuscript materials. Essay tutorials for the option will further contextualise these primary sources with secondary reading in English on relevant issues, including the material and performance contexts of different poetic forms; the role of intertextuality and seasonal topics in composing and anthologising poetry; relationships between poetry, storytelling, and literary scholarship; and the role of poetry in imagining travel and landscape (from *Sarashina nikki* to Bashō's travel diaries). It may be helpful to take the Classical Japanese Literature Special Subject Core option first and/or to have completed the third-year Classical Japanese set texts, but this is not necessary or required.

Topics covered may include:

The Kokinshū and ideas about the nature of waka poetry; Poetry competitions and material culture; Kanshi (Chinese-style poetry) and Heian academics; The *Wakan rōeishū*: poetry as visual and aural art; Poetic miscellanies and storytelling; Medieval commentary and poetics; Travel diaries, intertextuality, and the poetic landscape; Haikai poetry and visual art.

Special Subject Option: Topics in Modern Japanese Literature

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

Dr Linda Flores

Course description:

This option provides an overview of important literary works and writers in the period spanning from the early 20th century to the contemporary period. For this option we will consider more closely issues such as gender (masculinity, femininity, the feminist movement), reactions to the I-novel, reactions to the post war, and literature after the post war period. Lectures and tutorials will address both the social and historical context of the works under examination as well as closer readings of the texts themselves. Students taking this option should also follow the Modern Japanese Literature lecture series in Hilary Term.

Topics covered may include:

Proletarian Literature; Japanese Modernism; Literature of the Flesh; Atomic Bomb Literature; The Feminist Movement; Literature of the 1960s; Post-modern Literature; and Alienation in Japanese Society.

Special Texts: Classical Japanese I: The Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

(Dr Jennifer Guest) MT2017: Mr Laurence Mann

Course description:

This option will involve readings from two near-contemporary works of Heian court prose, the Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book. Through close reading of passages from the Pillow Book, students will trace Sei Shōnagon's accounts of how she outwitted various other courtiers and impressed the empress with her quick literary responses; get to know the rhythms of Heian court life and the seasonal progression of waka topics; and consider the socio-political and gendered dynamics behind the brilliant setting of mid-Heian court salons. Readings from the Tale of Genji will focus on the early volumes of the tale and on Genji's relationship with the character known as Murasaki, perhaps the most iconic (if at times problematic) romance in Japanese literary history; the dynamics of romantic longing, power, and transgression established in these early episodes provide one possible set of signposts through the complex plot of the text as a whole.

These two texts, which are now among the best-known canonical works of classical Japanese literature, illuminate many facets of life in the Heian court around the turn of the eleventh century, including poetry and aesthetics; ideals of romance and other relationships; shared assumptions about literary and cultural knowledge; conceptions of death, the supernatural, and the world beyond the capital; and attitudes toward gender and women's writing. By reading key excerpts from the Tale of Genji and Pillow Book alongside each other, we will aim for a deeper understanding of these themes and the roles they played in Heian court literature.

Special Texts: Classical Japanese II: Warrior Tales**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

(Dr Jennifer Guest) HT2018: Mr Laurence Mann

Course description:

In this option, students will read, translate, and comment on selected medieval warrior tales. Our focus will be on iconic passages from the immensely influential Tales of the Heike (Heike monogatari), which depicts the rise and fall of the Taira warrior clan along with the heroic acts and tragic deaths of characters on both sides of the twelfth-century civil wars. As we examine specific scenes in detail, we will also consider themes that run through the text as a whole and have wider implications for medieval Japanese literature, including portrayals of ideal warrior conduct and feats of bravery; Buddhist worldviews and attitudes toward death; the roles played by women in the tale; and the interaction between written sources and oral performance. We will conclude with a quick look at how the characters of the Heike were reimagined in later storytelling, art, and Noh drama, reading a passage from the Story of Yoshitsune (Gikeiki) – a popular account of the exploits of the Genji general Minamoto no Yoshitsune and his loyal warrior-monk companion Benkei that provides a chance to think further about the literary construction of warrior heroes (particularly doomed ones).

Special Texts: Japanese Linguistics I: Boku wa unagi da**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

Course description:

The purpose of this option is for students to examine a particular set of issues in Japanese linguistics in some detail, while assimilating the necessary concepts and vocabulary in the process. Students will read, translate, and comment on two parts of the book 'Boku wa unagi da' no bunpō: da to no by Okutsu Kei'ichirō (1979).

This is an important and oft-quoted work on Japanese grammar that takes as its starting point various possible uses and interpretations of the sentence boku wa unagi da sometimes literally (but usually mistakenly) translated 'I am an eel'. Depending on context, this sentence can be used in reply to questions such as "What did you order?", "What are you fishing for?", or "What is your favourite fish?", amongst many others. Okutsu examines the many sentences that can be formed on the same basic pattern from the perspectives of syntax and semantics.

The first excerpt we will read is part one of the book: "'Boku wa unagi da' no bunpō". We will also read the follow-up essay that Okutsu wrote to address some of the observations made by supporters and critics of his original work: "Unagibun no sekai".

The book addresses in particular the question of the status of the 'copula' within Japanese. The topic Okutsu treats here has been and is still controversial in the field of Japanese linguistics. It raises further questions about focus, presupposition, etc., thus covering some basic notions in pragmatics. As an introduction to Japanese linguistics, the book covers a broad range of issues using basic intuitions about meaning and grammaticality in a very accessible way.

Special Texts: Japanese Linguistics II: Linguistic variation**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

Course description:

The purpose of this option is for students to explore varieties of the Japanese language, and to consider the factors that bear on the choices speakers make with regard to what they say and how they say it.

We will first explore various dialects of Japanese and the geographical patterns that dialectal variation exhibits. The readings will be taken from the book: *O-kuni kotoba o shiru* (Satō 2002). The topics looked at may include: the east/west dialect split in Japan; inferring how innovations spread; the standardisation of Japanese; the future of dialects in Japan; philology and dialectology; the sources of dialect items.

We then go on to focus specifically on gender as a factor in variation in speech and writing in Japanese, and its interaction with other sociolinguistic variables. The readings are selections from the book *Onna to Kotoba* (Endō 2001). The topics looked at may include: girls who refer to themselves using *boku*; which genders use masculine and/or feminine speech in TV dramas; factors on women's use of pauses and fillers in speech; the place of feminine speech in 'queer' contexts.

Finally, we will look at *yakuwarigo* "stereotypical speech in fiction" as presented in the book *Vaachuaru Nihongo: Yakuwarigo no nazo* (Kinsui 2003).

Special Texts: Japanese Linguistics III: Old Japanese**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Trinity Term

Teaching staff:

(Professor Bjarke Frellesvig) TT2018: Dr Laurence Mann

Course description:

The purpose of this option is for students to learn to read, translate and comment on texts written in Old Japanese, the oldest known form of the Japanese language (from the Asuka/Nara period). The writing, the vocabulary, and the grammar of Old Japanese are significantly different from that of the canons of Classical Japanese literature from the Heian period onwards. The texts will be read and studied from a linguistic, rather than literary, point of view, focusing on the special features of Old Japanese script, phonology and grammar. These texts raise many points of interest for all students of Japanese, but knowledge of Old Japanese is an especially valuable addition to the study of Classical Japanese.

Most of the texts from this period are poetry. We will read texts from the poetry anthology the *Man'yōshū* (compiled after 759 AD), which is the main source of texts from the period, but we will also read poetry from other sources. We will also read works written in a ritualistic prose, from the *Senmyō* (imperial edicts) in the *Shoku-Nihongi* and from the *Norito* (prayers and blessings) from the *Engishiki*. Finally, we will read some of the few texts written in Eastern Old Japanese, a group of dialects with characteristics that are different from the language of the capital, which is that reflected in the majority of sources.

Students taking this option should also follow Professor Frellesvig's lecture series Introduction to Old Japanese in Hilary Term.

Special Texts: Japanese Politics

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

MT2017, HT2018, MT2018, HT2019

Teaching staff:

Professor Ian Neary

Course description:

Over the term we will look at extracts from two texts: *Seiji no shikumi* by Fukuoka Masayuki and *Nihon Gendaishi 1945-85* by Fujiwara, Arakawa and Hayashi. The first is a basic introduction to Japanese politics that assumes no political knowledge. The chapter we will read from the second covers the period from prime ministers Tanaka to Nakasone looking at aspects of both political and economic developments. Students will write essays on four topics that we will discuss in tutorials.

There will be an accompanying series of lectures on Japanese politics every Friday during MT from 12.00 in the Nissan seminar room.

All the classes will be taught by Professor Ian Neary, professor in the Politics of Japan, who is based at the Nissan Institute who can be contacted at ian.neary@nissan.ox.ac.uk

Special Texts: Modern Literature I: Gender and Identity in Modern Japanese Literature

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Hilary Term

Teaching staff:

Dr Linda Flores

Course description:

This option is designed to explore issues of gender and identity in modern Japanese literature. Topics for discussion may include: the good wife-wise mother, the modern girl, women who challenge normative motherhood, infanticidal mothers, parasite singles, and the shifting meanings associated with being a woman in contemporary Japan. We will also read scholarship on gender and feminist theory in English, and this may include works by scholars such as Ueno Chizuko, Julia Kristeva, Toril Moi, Rebecca Copeland, and Ayako Kano.

The primary texts for this option will consist of literature relating to writers such as Kawakami Hiromi.

Special Texts: Modern Literature II: Trauma and Narrative in Modern Japanese Literature

Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:

Trinity Term

Teaching staff:

Dr Linda Flores

Course description:

More than seven years on from the devastation of the Great Eastern Earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima crisis, the future for many of those affected by the disaster remains unclear. Authors and cultural critics have penned numerous responses to these traumatic events, and this option considers the state of Japanese literature written about or in reaction to 3.11. We will interrogate issues related to the crises including but not limited to the following: How have writers and cultural critics responded to 3.11? How can we best define the category of *shinsaigo bungaku* (post-disaster literature)? Is there a new post 3.11 set of ethics that has emerged in the aftermath of these crises? How has the literary world changed since 3.11? What is the role of literature in the wake of trauma?

Readings may include English language studies of trauma and memory by scholars such as Cathy Caruth, Pierre Janet, Sigmund Freud, Dominick Lacapra and Jeffrey Alexander.

The primary texts for this option will include literature related to the Triple Disaster (3.11) in Japan.

Special Texts: Japanese History I: to 1185**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

(Hilary Term.) **Not available 2017-18.**

Teaching staff:

Dr Jay Lewis

Course description:

The readings for this unit were chosen with two purposes in mind. The first is to introduce students to the field of ancient Japanese history, and the second is to focus on one aspect of antiquity—foreign relations. Time permitting, a third aspect will be developed that looks at the controversial ways history is used to elaborate contemporary identities.

The first text is a bibliographical survey of the fields covered by ancient historians. A new survey is published annually, and this survey is the best way for students to identify the latest scholarly work in a field that interests them. Acquaintance with this resource is essential for any historical work—ancient, medieval, modern, or contemporary—and could be the starting point for any dissertation topic on any aspect of Japanese history. We will read selections from the section on ancient history.

The second text is a modern Japanese translation of the oldest and most elaborate description of the Japanese. The text was written in the third century CE in Chinese.

Time permitting, we will also read sections and discuss the third and fourth texts, which will be one part of a comparative composite of Japanese high school texts on ancient history. These may also be most usefully read as background.

Special Texts: The Economy of Japan**Term in which it is taught and hours of teaching:**

Michaelmas Term

Teaching staff:

Professor Hugh Whittaker

Course description:

The course will focus on a small number of themes which will serve as ‘windows’ on aspects of the

contemporary Japanese economy and business. Possibilities include:

- Reforming Japanese agriculture
- Reforming Japanese corporate governance
- Employment relations
- Ageing and welfare provision
- Entrepreneurship

Passages will be selected from weekly economics or business journals; Nikkei shimbun; and other relevant publications.

Further details will be given in class.

All the classes will be taught by Professor Hugh Whittaker, Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan, based at the Nissan Institute. He can be contacted at hugh.whittaker@nissan.ox.ac.uk

Assessment

The latest information on assessments and submission details is listed in the University of Oxford Examination Regulations and can be found here: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/>

The Exam Regulations are revised and re-issued each year, and you must always consult the relevant issue in force. For example, if you matriculate your studies in Michaelmas Term 2017, for Prelims examinations you should refer to the Examination Regulations for 2017 -2018. For FHS examinations depending on the programme, please see the below:

Year of Matriculation	Prelims Exams	FHS Exams (for 3-year programme)	FHS Exams (for 4-year programme)
MT 2017	Prelims Exam Regs for 2017-18	FHS Exam Regs for 2018-19	FHS Exam Regs for 2019-20

Important Deadlines

Monday Wk 9 of Trinity Term	Year 1	Provisional start date of the First Public Examinations.
Monday Wk 0 of Hilary Term	Year 4	Deadline for applications for approval of dissertation titles. Forms available here
12 noon, Friday Wk 10 of Hilary Term	Year 4	Deadline for submission of dissertation
Wk 0 of Trinity Term	Year 4	Oral examinations for Japanese language. Timetables available about 5 weeks before the oral exams.
Monday Wk 7 of Trinity Term	Year 4	Provisional start date of the Final Honour School examinations.