Syllabus

Instructor
Paul G. Schalow, Professor of Japanese Literature
Office: Scott Rm. 330
Office Hours: Thursdays 5-6pm, or by app’t
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Course Description
In this course, we will be reading and discussing eyewitness accounts, short stories, a novel, and poems, by survivors and writers of the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. All students will be asked to serve as discussion leader in class twice during the semester. We will also study films describing the history of the bombings and depicting the aftermath. All readings are in English translation.

By studying multiple genres (eyewitness accounts, fiction, poetry, and film), we will be able to examine from varied perspectives the ways atomic warfare has been represented in media. Ideally, each student in the class will develop an understanding of the limits of representation of the dehumanizing effects of atomic warfare, and learn to connect A-Bomb literature and film in Japan to political concerns about future use of atomic weapons.

Class meets TTh 7 (6:10-7:30) in Murray Rm. 114; total of 28 class meetings in 14 weeks.

Grading
Attendance/participation: 2 pts x 25 classes (50% total)
Discussion leader: 5 pts. x 2 times (10%)
Final paper: 40%
Total: 100%

Grade Scale
A 90-100; B+ 85-89; B 80-84; C+ 75-79; C 70-74; D 60-69; F below 60

Required Texts
1. Ōe Kenzaburō, ed. The Crazy Iris (Perseus, 1985) ISBN 9780802151841
Learning Goals
“A-Bomb Literature and Film in Japan” 01:565:215 satisfies Core Curriculum goals:

- 21st Century Challenges (21C) c. Analyze the relationship that science and technology have to a contemporary social issue.
- Arts and Literatures (AHp) Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies.

The course also satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures learning goals for Japanese majors and minors:

- Majors will be able to demonstrate substantial knowledge of Japanese literature and culture and pursue advanced study and/or employment in a capacity requiring such cultural knowledge. Minors will be able to analyze and interpret texts and relate relevant issues to other areas in the humanities.

See full statement of the Asian Languages and Cultures department’s learning goals at https://sas.rutgers.edu/documents/curriculum-committee/532-sas-learning-goals/file (p. 3)

Academic Integrity Policy
Violations of academic integrity will be punished by loss of all points for the assignment in which the violation occurred. Punishable violations include the following: submitting assignments that are not your own work; using the work of others without acknowledging the source (plagiarism); denying others access to information or material; and facilitating other student’s violations of academic integrity. See full statement of Academic Integrity Policy: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Attendance Policy
We meet 28 times over 14 weeks this semester. Each class is worth 2 pts. for attendance and participation. You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences during the semester; more than three unexcused absences will lead to a 2 pt. reduction in your score for each absence. Please contact me schalow@rutgers.edu in advance to request an excused absence. Excused absences earn 1/2 credit (1 pt), minus participation (1 pt).
Class Schedule

**Unit I: The Atomic Bombings**

Sept. 3 Tues. INTRODUCTION TO HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI
No readings

Sept. 5 Thurs. HIBAKUSHA
Reading: *Hibakusha: Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (selected chapters) PDF

Sept 10 Tues. HUMAN ASHES

Sept. 12 Thurs. HARA TAMIKI (1905-1951)
Reading: “Hara Tamiki: Translator’s Introduction,” *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*, 21-40
Film: “Hiroshima: City of Peace” (Lorien Productions, 1994) 40 mins

Sept. 17 Tues. SUMMER FLOWERS
Reading: “Summer Flowers” (part 1) by Hara Tamiki, *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*, 45-60

Sept. 19 Thurs. ŌTA YŌKO (1906-1963)
Reading: “Ōta Yōko: Translator’s Introduction,” *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*, 117-142
Film: “Hiroshima: The Legacy” (NHK, 1987) 50 mins.

Sept. 24 Tues. CITY OF CORPSES (1)

Sept. 26 Thurs. CITY OF CORPSES (2)
Reading: “City of Corpses” (‘Relief’ to ‘Late Autumn Koto Music’), Ōta Yōko, *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*, 225-273

Oct. 1 Tues. TÖGE SANKICHI (1917-1953)
Reading: “Tōge Sankichi: Translator’s Introduction,” *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses*, 277-300
Film: “The Race for the Bomb” (ABC, 1999) 42 mins.

Oct. 3 Thurs. POEMS OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

Oct. 8 Tues. WHEN WE SAY HIROSHIMA
Reading: *When We Say Hiroshima: Selected Poems*, Kurihara Sadako, 3-57
Oct. 10 Thurs. THE BELLGS OF NAGASAKI
Reading: The Bells of Nagasaki, Nagai Takashi, selected chapters (PDF)

Oct. 15 Tues. RAIN OF RUIN
Film: “Rain of Ruin: The Atomic Bombing of Japan” (History Channel, 1995) 70 mins.

Oct. 17 Thurs. RAIN OF RUIN II
Film: “Rain of Ruin II: The Bombing of Nagasaki” (Oregon PBS, 1995) 70 mins.

Unit II: The Aftermath

Oct. 22 Tues. FIREFLIES
Reading: “Fireflies,” Ōta Yōko, The Crazy Iris, 85-111

Oct. 24 Thurs. THE RITE
Reading: “The Rite,” Takenishi Hiroko, The Crazy Iris, 169-200

Oct. 29 Tues. THE EMPTY CAN
Reading: “The Empty Can,” Hayashi Kyōko, The Crazy Iris, 127-143

Oct. 31 Thurs. THE HOUSE OF HANDS
Reading: “The House of Hands” Inoue Mitsuharu, The Crazy Iris, 145-168

Nov. 5 Tues. THE COLORLESS PAINTINGS
Reading: “The Colorless Paintings,” Sata Ineko, The Crazy Iris, 113-125

Nov. 7 Thurs. THE CRAZY IRIS

Nov. 12 Tues. BIRDS
Reading: “Birds,” Seirai Yūichi, Ground Zero: Nagasaki Stories (PDF)

Nov. 14 Thurs. RHAPSODY IN AUGUST
Film: Kurosawa Akira, dir. “Rhapsody in August” (Shochiku Films, 1991) 98 mins.

Nov. 19 Tues. RHAPSODY IN AUGUST (cont.)
Film: Kurosawa Akira, dir. “Rhapsody in August” (Shochiku Films, 1991) 98 mins.

Nov. 21 Thurs. BLACK RAIN

Nov. 26 Tues. (Thurs. schedule) BLACK RAIN (cont.)
[Thanksgiving Recess] Nov. 28-Dec. 1

Dec. 3 Tues. BLACK RAIN
Reading: Black Rain, Ibuse Masuji.

Dec. 5 Thurs. WHITE LIGHT, BLACK RAIN
Film: “White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” (Steven Okazaki, dir. HBO, 2007) 80 mins.

Dec. 10 Tues. BAREFOOT GEN

[Reading Days] Dec. 12-13

Dec. 13 Fri. FINAL PAPER DUE
Length: Minimum 1500 words; maximum 2000 words
Choose one of the four topics below:

1. Explain your understanding of the atomic bombings before you took this course, and then describe how your thinking has changed as a result of the hibakusha eyewitness accounts, literary texts, and films you’ve encountered in the course. You must discuss at least three works.
2. Which specific genre (eyewitness accounts, fiction, poetry, film) did you appreciate the most in the course? Contrast it with at least one other genre, and explain what it is about the genre you chose that made it so powerful for you. You must include at least three works in your discussion.
3. Discuss differences you observed between Hiroshima and Nagasaki writers’ responses to the bombings. Describe the literary strategies used by non-hibakusha writers from both cities to create authentic narratives. You must discuss at least three works, and you may also include films in your discussion.
4. Were there images or scenes of suffering and death in the materials we studied that had a particular impact on you? Give examples from at least three works, and explain why those images or scenes were so powerful for you. Discuss also the chronology of suffering/death in your examples; i.e., was it immediate, or prolonged?