

Deciphering Manga and Anime

HUMS2090

“Even when our eyes are closed, there's a whole world out there that lives outside ourselves and our dreams.”

Edward Elric – Full Metal Alchemist.

Summer 2024
UNO-Japan

Instructor: David Rands randsd@apsu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites: none

I. Description:

This course is designed to develop your understanding of Japan through materials, such as anime and manga. Anime and manga are extremely popular and can be used to approach a number of historical, cultural, and traditional aspects of Japan. This course will explore Japanese language and society through the use of these medium. Students will gain a better understanding of the different genre, historically significant, and current uses of manga, culminating in students visiting the Kyoto International Manga Museum. Students will also utilize anime as a lens through which to view Japanese society. They will evaluate several styles of anime and discuss the implications of different anime as a reflection of Japanese values. The inspection of anime will also provide an opportunity for students to evaluate the linguistic components of anime and the ways in which the Japanese language interacts with the visual presentations.

II. Course Outcomes:

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Differentiate between animation and anime, and comics and manga.
- Understand and explain the different genres of manga and anime.
- Understand and explain the different ways in which the Japanese language is utilized in anime and manga.
- Understand and be able to explain the role of anime and manga in Japanese society.

III. Textbooks or required materials

The Soul of Anime: Collaborative Creativity and Japan's Media Success Story by Ian Condry (ISBN 978-0822353942) Duke University Press – e-book available through Kindle Books

A Brief History of Manga by Helen McCarthy (ISBN 978-1781570982) Ilex Press – e-book available through Kindle Books

Admission to Kyoto International Manga Museum (800 yen – approx. \$8.20).

IV. Format and Procedures:

Format:

The course will be online for the first week, and then meet in a traditional format in Japan for the remaining weeks.

Conduct:

It is expected that students will behave professionally and with proper regard for all those affiliated with the class. The many genres of anime and manga can depict ideas and cultures beyond what students may be familiar or comfortable with. Students must treat one another, and the material within the courteous and academic environment that will allow intellectual development and positive understanding.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all classes and all mandatory events organized by this summer program. This is an intensive program, and we have very few class days. You are allowed no unexcused absences. For an absence to be considered “excused,” it must be medically necessary and approved by the academic and/or administrative director of the program. Unexcused absences will affect your final course grade (half grade/5 points will be taken off from your final points for each missed class).

Being late for class will also affect your final points. Each time you are late you lose 1 point from your final points for each 0-10 minutes. For example, if you are 8 minutes late, you lose 1 point. If you are late 15 minutes, you lose 2 points. If you are late 28 minutes, you lose 3 points, etc.

Be in class on time. Do not come late, as these distractive disruptions are inconsiderate and time-wasting. Timely arrival to class is also required; repeated tardiness will have an effect on your grade. Sleeping is not permitted in class and it will be treated as an absence.

V. Course Assessments:

All students will have two assignments and an on-line quiz in the course. Each assignment will account for 20% of the course grade. Late papers will not be accepted, so be sure to turn them in early or on time.

On-line quiz – Taken before the first day of class meetings will cover an introductory reading on Japanese language. Students will not be expected to know Japanese language, but must know about the language.

Assignment 1 (approx.750 words) – Students will view several styles of Japanese manga and visit the Kyoto International Manga Museum. They must then write an analytical paper explaining the different genres of manga and how they represent segments of Japanese society..

Assignment 2 – Students will create select several genre of Japanese anime and write a comparative essay discussing the ways in which Japanese society can be better understood through anime (approx. 750 words). Students are encouraged to incorporate the many different ways in which anime influences Japanese culture.

Exams

Two essay exams will be scheduled: a midterm and a final. The midterm will be worth 15% of your final grade. It will be an hour-and-a-half minute essay exam, open-book and open-notes. The final will be similar in format, and will be worth 25% of your final grade. No makeups will be allowed for exams.

VI. Grading Procedures:

On-line Quiz – 15%

Assignment 1 – 15%

Assignment 2 – 15%

Midterm – 20%

Final – 25%

Participation – 10%

Total: 100 %

VII. Academic Success

Students should read required material before class and be prepared to discuss the concepts and information put forward. Additionally, this class requires that students thoughtfully evaluate and analyze information, which may be in a foreign language. Students must learn to contextualize the information they glean from visual clues and the analytical processes learned in class. While no formal Japanese language training is necessary for the class, students will be expected to apply the basic language fundamentals from the class into their evaluations of the works studied.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the [Student Code of Conduct for further information](#).

IX. Accommodations for students with disabilities

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, [please go to the Office of Disability Services website](#).

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK	DAY			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Pre-Departure	Understanding the Japanese Writing System (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7a8OjvViwE)	Learn ALL Hiragana in 1 Hour - How to Write and Read Japanese (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p9Il_j0zjc)	The Hiragana and Katakana Explained (http://www.bitboost.com/tiletag/about-the-kana.html)	How to Learn Japanese with Anime (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXmPavo_quc) On-line quiz due by first day of class
Week 1 Manga	Brief History of Manga pp 6-22 https://www.thecolle	Brief History of Manga pp 22-44 http://tezukaineng	Brief History of Manga pp 44-66 https://www.dailydot	Brief History of Manga pp 66-91 http://www.acade

	ctor.com/edo-japan-ukiyo-floating-world/	lish.com/wp/?page_id=138	com/parsec/fandom/s-honen-jump-manga-anime-magazine-45-otakon/	mia.edu/2088594/Manga_x_Museum_in_Contemporary_Japan
Week 2	What are the genres of manga? https://www.mangauupdates.com/genres.html	Students should select a manga to bring in to discuss	Students should select a second manga to bring in and discuss in class	Midterm Assignment 1 due by Monday
Week 3 Anime	Starting Life From Zero “The History of Anime: Part 1 – Humble Beginnings” (https://startinglifefromzero.home.blog/2021/01/04/the-history-of-anime-part-1-humble-beginnings/) Soul of Anime pp 1-53	Starting Life From Zero “The History of Anime: Part 2 – Enter the Space Race” (https://startinglifefromzero.home.blog/2021/01/05/the-history-of-anime-part-2-enter-the-space-race/) Soul of Anime pp 54-111	Starting Life From Zero “The History of Anime: Part 3 – The Golden Eighties” (https://startinglifefromzero.home.blog/2021/01/06/the-history-of-anime-part-3-the-golden-eighties/) Soul of Anime pp 112-160	Starting Life From Zero “The History of Anime: Part 4 – Taking Over The World” (https://startinglifefromzero.home.blog/2021/01/08/the-history-of-anime-part-4-taking-over-the-world/) Soul of Anime pp 161-217
Week 4	https://reelrundown.com/animation/Anime-Genre-List	http://www.brainsbase.co.jp/works/ <i>Assassination Classroom</i>	Toei Animation Co., Ltd. http://corp.toei-anim.co.jp/en/ <i>One Piece</i>	Studio Ghibli, Inc. https://www.ghibli.jp/info/ <i>Grave of the Fireflies</i>
Week 5	Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation https://www.ytv.co.jp/animeroom/ <i>Space Battleship Yamato (Star Blazers)</i>	Nintendo Co., Ltd. https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/company.php?id=15654 <i>Pokémon</i>	Final Exam Assignment 2 due by Thursday	Student choice anime