Spring 1-15-2000

ENG 0995-001

Martone
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2000

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2000/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2000 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2000 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Course Description.

We will use selected works of Japanese literature in translation as a context in which to practice and develop English-language reading, writing, and speaking skills. I intend our reading to spark wide-ranging discussions, touching on matters as diverse as Japanese and American landscapes, what it means to be "modern," male and female roles in traditional and contemporary societies, and notions of beauty. Your skills will determine our pace in the class — we may not read all of the books listed on the syllabus — but I will expect you complete up to 5 essays (of 2-3 pages in length) as well as give 3 oral presentations (10 minutes in length).

Texts.

Bates, Transitions.

Kawabata. Snow Country.
Mishima The Sailor who Fell from Grace with the Sea.
Oe. A Personal Matter.

Requirements.

➢ Regular attendance and participation. You will be allowed two cuts. I will lower your final grade by one letter for each unexcused absence thereafter.

➢ Completion of required reading and reading quizzes. (20% of grade.)

➢ Oral presentations. (30% of grade.)

➢ Essays. (50% of grade.)

Schedule.

We will pace ourselves as necessary, but for convenience, I've divided the course into four segments. Please do not expect us to adhere strictly to the schedule.

1. Basho: Journeys and Journal writing, Haikai, Haiku
Assignments will include journal and poetry, as well as informal research into and responses to Basho and his progeny.

   January 19-21
   January 24-24
   January 31-February 4
   February 7-9
2. Kawabata: Beauty and tradition.
Writing assignments will focus on precision.

February 14-18
February 21-25
February 28- March 3

We will see a film version of the novel in addition to reading it. Writing will involve a film review or critique of Mishima's political views.

March 8-10
March 20-24
March 7-31

4. Oe: Compassion in the Modern Age.
Here our writing will deal with the modern family and vulnerability. We will also look at Oe's writing about Hiroshima and consider the consequences of that event for life today.
April 3-7
April 10-14
April 17-21
April 24-26