



Introduction to Anime and Manga Studies

JAPA 360 – Fall 2018

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30–2:45PM
Mason Global Center 1320A

Every year, there are hundreds of fan conventions dedicated to Japanese popular culture held in North America, and there are dozens more in South America, Europe, and Asia. New anime and manga titles are constantly licensed and released in the United States and other overseas territories, and pirate sites provide additional translated and subtitled works to eager consumers in every corner of the globe. The worldwide popularity of Japanese entertainment media is undeniable, as is its influence on artistic communities and fannish subcultures. In this class we will watch, read, and study anime and manga in order to arrive at a deeper understanding and appreciation of the cultures and histories that have generated these art forms and how they continue to shape international mediascapes.

This course serves as an introduction to four main strands of scholarly inquiry into anime, manga, and their related media and fan practices. We will examine anime and manga from a historical perspective, a cinematic and literary perspective, the perspective of Cultural Studies, and the perspective of the emerging discipline of Fan Studies. Throughout the semester, we will return to the themes of transnational economies and gender, both of which are integral to the study of demographically determined intellectual properties. By the end of the course, students will be intellectually equipped to engage deeply not only with anime and manga but also with a wider range of global entertainment media.

Course Texts

Osamu Tezuka, *Black Jack* (Volume One)

Moyoco Anno, *In Clothes Called Fat*

Satoshi Kon, *Opus*

Fumi Yoshinaga, *Ôoku: The Inner Chambers* (Volume One)

Instructor

Kathryn Hemmann

khemmann@gmail.com

Aquia Building Room 326

Office hours by appointment (to be requested in writing via email)

Grading and Assignments

Participation: 20%

Unit Quizzes: 40%

Final Project Proposal: 10%

Final Project Zine Page: 20%

Final Project Presentation: 10%

Participation

Students are expected to complete all required reading assignments and to be engaged and attentive during class lectures and discussions. If a student is uncomfortable or otherwise unable to speak in class, alternate methods of performance evaluation can be arranged through a consultation with the Office of Disability Services.

Repeated lack of preparation will significantly lower the participation grade, as will a demonstrated lack of respect for the instructor or the other students.

Unit Quizzes

There will be a quiz on the final day of each of the four course units. Each quiz will last approximately fifteen minutes and will feature three to five term definitions and one or two short answer questions. Each quiz will test all material covered in its respective unit, including the reading assigned for the day of the quiz. If a student misses a quiz for any reason, he or she will be required to schedule a make-up quiz before the next class meeting.

Quizzes will be given on the following days:

Thursday, September 20

Thursday, October 11

Thursday, November 1

Thursday, November 29

Final Project

Your final project may deal with any topic relating to anime and manga. Topics not addressed in class are welcome, and comparative approaches are encouraged. The project will incorporate both research and creative aspects, and it will consist of three assignments: a proposal, one (or possibly two) pages to include in a class zine, and a presentation during the final week of class.

Although students are encouraged to share their ideas with one another, each student is responsible for their own work, and group projects are not allowed.

Final Project Proposal

The goal of this proposal is to explain the questions and issues you want to explore in your final project. If your project focuses more on research, your proposal should contain a clear and specific topic, as well as a brief outline of how you will approach this topic. If you opt to focus more on a creative project, your proposal should state your artistic medium and provide at least one theme you wish to explore through your work. No matter what your focus, you are required to include a formal bibliographic list of at least three sources (using whatever citation style you're most comfortable with). Your proposal should be approximately one page (about 250 words) in length, not including the list of works referenced. A paper copy of your proposal is due at the beginning of class on **Thursday, October 11**.

Final Project Zine Page

A zine is a self-published booklet or magazine with a small distribution. Generally speaking, making a zine is a project that people get together and do for fun. In Japan, small publications shared between friends are called *dōjinshi* (同人誌), and they collectively form the foundation of a large and thriving ecosystem of interrelated fandom cultures, which in turn guide and shape the contemporary media industry.

As a class, we will gradually form our own small community as we share our thoughts and ideas, and this community will be given physical form in a printed zine that will be distributed during the final week of class. Every student is expected to contribute one page based on the topic of their final project. For example, you could...

- Write a brief essay
- Draw a short comic
- Make a small poster
- Create a collage of graphics
- Share your fan art, fanfic, or cosplay photos
- Share a slide of your PowerPoint presentation

Essentially, your page is your opportunity to express yourself, and you can fill it however you'd like. I will take care of the formatting and printing. You can submit your zine page in whatever format you'd like; but, to ensure the fidelity of the image, a PDF file is preferred. Portrait orientation is also preferred, but landscape-oriented images and other two-page spreads are also acceptable. If you would like me to photograph or scan your work for you, please let me know in advance. A digital copy of your zine page(s) is due on **Thursday, November 1**, and **Thursday, November 8** is the deadline for edits and corrections. As printing the zine will take time, these are both hard deadlines that cannot be extended or negotiated.

Final Project Presentation

Each student will present their final project during the last week of class. A presentation will be no more than five minutes in length. There will be a short period for questions and comments at the end of each presentation. Plan on using a PowerPoint (or Keynote or Prezi) slideshow or some other type of visual aid, but try not to rely too heavily on video. These presentations will be graded according to a four-point rubric: (1) clarity, or ability to convey content, (2) impact, or ability to demonstrate why the project is interesting and important, (3) appropriate use of visual aids, and (4) ability to handle questions and comments.

Course Policies

Required Films and Readings

The films and television shows required for this class are all officially licensed and freely available online through Hulu, Crunchyroll, and other providers. The assigned readings are available on the course site on Blackboard. Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Although it is not necessary to bring a physical copy of every assigned reading to class, students should come to class prepared to discuss the appropriate material. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase copies of the four assigned manga, as each will be analyzed in class. If you would like me to have the library order a book, film, graphic novel, or television series for your reference, please notify me as soon as possible, as the process can take longer than a month.

Attendance

Each student is allowed **two unexcused absences**, no questions asked and no excuses necessary. If you would like to excuse an absence, you must submit at least one form of written proof of legitimacy (photocopies and printouts are fine) or have an appropriate party write to me on your behalf. If your documents are not submitted within three days of your absence, they become forfeit. Each unexcused absence after the third will result in half a letter grade being deducted from your final course grade. Please be aware that obligations for other classes (such as makeup exams) do not count as valid excuses, even if they are scheduled during our class time. If such a conflict arises, please notify the class's professor to reschedule the commitment. Professional development such as job interviews and graduate campus visits are considered valid excuses.

Technology

Tablets are permitted in their capacity as e-readers, but **smartphones and laptop computers are absolutely not allowed** without a formal letter from the Office of Disability Services.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to abide by the Mason Honor Code. No instances of cheating, plagiarization, stealing, or lying in matters related to academic work will be tolerated.

Respect

As in any class dealing with media and contemporary social issues, students may find that the course material is directly pertinent to their lives, and discussion may become personal and intense. Nevertheless, each student is expected to be respectful of her or his peers. No speech demonstrating or encouraging discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, body shape, or disability will be tolerated.

Course Schedule

☆ Tuesday, August 28

Course Introduction

Style Guide, Pronunciation Guide, and Definition of Terms

☆ Thursday, August 30

A Very Short Introduction to Transnational Media Cultures

James Whitbrook, "The Producer Behind the *Ghost in the Shell* Movie Finally Responds to the Casting Controversy," from *i09*, <http://io9.gizmodo.com/the-producer-behind-the-ghost-in-the-shell-movie-finall-1783043260> (Please read the comments!)

APPROACH ONE: HISTORY

Where did anime and manga come from, and where are they going?

☆ Tuesday, September 4

Frederick L. Schodt, "A National Icon," from *The Astro Boy Essays*, pp.3-15

☆ Thursday, September 6

Osamu Tezuka, *Black Jack* (Volume One)

☆ Tuesday, September 11

Yukari Fujimoto, "Takahashi Macoto: The Origin of Shōjo Manga Style," from *Mechademia* 7, pp.24-55

Anne McKnight, "Frenchness and Transformation in Japanese Subculture, 1972-2004," from *Mechademia* 5, pp.118-137

☆ Thursday, September 13

Sailor Moon (1992), dir. Junichi Satō

Season One, Episodes One and Eight

<http://www.hulu.com/sailor-moon>

☆ Tuesday, September 18

Jonathan Clements, *Anime: A History*

"The Pokémon Shock," pp.177-190

"The Digital Engine," pp.191-212

☆ Thursday, September 20

Pokémon: Diamond & Pearl (2006), dir. Yūji Asada

Season Ten, Episodes One and Two

<http://www.hulu.com/pokemon>

* **First Unit Quiz** *

APPROACH TWO: CINEMA AND LITERATURE STUDIES

How can we read anime and manga as cinematic and literary texts?

☆ Tuesday, September 25

Hayao Miyazaki, *Castle in the Sky*

☆ Thursday, September 27

Thomas Lamarre, *The Anime Machine*

"Compositing," pp.26-44

"Full Animation," pp.64-76

☆ Tuesday, October 2

Revolutionary Girl Utena (1997), dir. Kunihiko Ikuhara

Season One, Episodes One and Two

<http://www.hulu.com/revolutionary-girl-utena>

☆ Thursday, October 4

Mari Kotani, "Metamorphosis of the Japanese Girl: The Girl, the Hyper-Girl, and the Battling

Beauty," from *Mechademia 1*, pp.162-170

Peter Howell, "Character Voice in Anime Subtitles," from *Perspectives* 14:4, pp.292-305

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Tuesday, October 9

NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

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☆ Thursday, October 11

Satoshi Kon, *Opus*

Andrew Osmond, "Kon on Kon," from *Satoshi Kon*, pp.11-24

* **Second Unit Quiz** *

* **Final Project Proposal Due** *

APPROACH THREE: CULTURAL STUDIES

How are anime and manga shaped by culture, and how do they shape it in turn?

☆ Tuesday, October 16

Fumi Yoshinaga, *Ôoku: The Inner Chambers* (Volume 1)

☆ Thursday, October 18

Hikari Hori, "Views from Elsewhere: Female Shoguns in Yoshinaga Fumi's *Ōoku* and Their Precursors in Japanese Popular Culture," from *Japanese Studies* 32:1, pp.77-95

☆ Tuesday, October 23

Laura Miller, "Body Fashion and Beauty Etiquette," from *Beauty Up*, pp.100-124

Hiroko Hirakawa, "The Dignified Woman Who Loves to Be 'Loveable,'" from *Manners and Mischief*, pp.136-155

☆ Thursday, October 25

Moyoco Anno, *In Clothes Called Fat*

☆ Tuesday, October 30

Michael Shea, "Karakuri: Subtle Trickery in Device Art and Robotics Demonstrations at Miraikan," from *Leonardo* 48:1, pp.40-47

Frederick L. Schodt, "Religion and Robots," from *Inside the Robot Kingdom*, pp.195-212

☆ Thursday, November 1

Ryōtarō Makihara, *Hal*

<http://www.crunchyroll.com/hal/hal-hal-744421>

* **Third Unit Quiz** *

* **Zine Page Due Today** *

APPROACH FOUR: FAN STUDIES

What can the activities of fans teach us about how media is consumed and produced?

☆ Tuesday, November 6

NO CLASS TODAY, PLEASE GO OUT AND VOTE

☆ Thursday, November 8

Kaichiro Morikawa, "Otaku and the City: The Rebirth of Akihabara," from *Fandom Unbound*, pp.133-157

Fan-Yi Lam, "Comic Market: How the World's Biggest Amateur Comic Fair Shaped Japanese *Dōjinshi* Culture," from *Mechademia* 5, pp.232-248

* **Final Deadline for Zine Page Edits** *

☆ Tuesday, November 13

Jennifer S. Prough, "Material Gals: Girls' Sexuality, Girls' Culture, and *Shōjo Manga*," from *Straight from the Heart*," pp.110-134

☆ Thursday, November 15

Hitoshi Ishida, "Representational Appropriation and the Autonomy of Desire in *Yaoi/BL*," from *Boys Love Manga and Beyond*, pp.210-232

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November 20 (Tuesday)

November 22 (Thursday)

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

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☆ Tuesday, November 27

Angela Moreno Acosta, "The 'Japaneseness' of OEL Manga: On Japanese American Comics Artists and Manga Style," from *Drawing New Color Lines*, pp.227-244

Bee and PuppyCat (2014), dir. Natasha Allegri

Season One, Episodes One and Two

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-oweoj9G30>

☆ Thursday, November 29

Hanna Wirman, "Princess Peach Loves Your Enemies, Too," from *Game Love*, pp.131-148
Ennuigi (2015), dir. Josh Millard

<http://www.lexaloffle.com/bbs/?tid=2232>

*** Fourth Unit Quiz ***

☆ Tuesday, December 4

Final Project Presentations

☆ Thursday, December 6

Final Project Presentations