

JAPAN 4900-02: Japanese Visual Culture (Fall 2021)

Professor M. A. Mujeeb Khan

Time: Tu/Th 10:45AM - 12:05PM, Classroom: BU C 208

The aim of this course is to introduce students to different aspects of Japanese visual culture from early Japan to the contemporary period. The medium of instruction and discussion will be Japanese. *Students are expected to have taken JAPAN 3040 or 3060.*

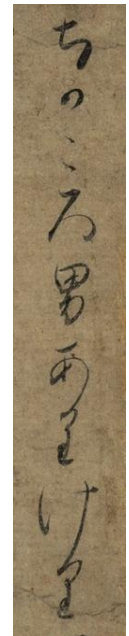


As a course conducted in Japanese about Japan, there are three specific goals:

- A broad exploration of different forms of visual culture throughout history (from pictures scrolls to manga and anime)
- Increased natural language processing ability of students through an immersion format class, wherein students use Japanese for all linguistic tasks
- Exposure to different forms of the language, both in its different modern registers as well as in its pre-modern forms (with guidance from the instructor)

In this visual culture course, we will explore different forms of visual expression in Japanese culture. From analyzing early picture scrolls to representations of early and medieval Japan in modern culture, it will introduce us to both the modern and pre-modern. As the modern will be most familiar for most students, one aspect will be an examination of the expressive power of different contemporary media. We will, individually and as a group, comparatively analyze media like manga, anime, and live-action expression. The course will also include one or two in-class workshops for cursive Japanese to instill in us an appreciation for writing as a form of visual culture in pre-modern Japan.

Course materials will be provided electronically and, in the case of published texts, links will be provided for those who might want physical copies. English-language scholarship will be used to help situate discussions. Japanese-language materials include pictures, manga, anime, live-action dramas, and other relevant visual items. The class will be conducted in Japanese, but depending on language abilities, part of the discussion will incorporate regular review of *how to communicate* in Japanese.



Feel free to contact Prof. Khan if you have any questions:
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