DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course looks at the relationship between literature and spirituality in Japan. It explores this relationship in the works of Shusaku Endo, Hiromi Ito, Yasunari Kawabata, Haruki Murakami and others. It examines the role of transcendent in modern Japanese literature through formal and also popular fiction and poetry since the Heian period.
The basic goals of the course are as follow:

To acquire basic understanding of Japanese popular literary culture with an especial focus on the works of Shusaku Endo, Hiromi Ito, Yasunari Kawabata, Haruki Murakami, Kafu Nagai and others.

1. To understand how literature and religious experience intersect.
3. To gain familiarity with non-European civilizations.
4. To gain knowledge of Japanese history and society in the context of Popular cultural history.
5. To engage in intensive university-level writing and to improve one’s analytical and critical skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Course Reader

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anime reviews</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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EXAMS:

- **Midterm:** essay of 1000 words (max), answering one of the 4 questions provided to you on the second week of the term. You’ll have one week to work on your midterm. You can choose any citation system, as long as it is consistent. Number your pages. You would need to submit your paper via email. religion101ucsd@gmail.com

  Due date: August 14, Thursday (11:59pm)
• **Final Exam**: 2000 words anime story; you as the author. Your anime story should relate to one of the themes discussed in class. I will explain this assignment on the first week.

• **Anime reviews**: 300 to 500 word review of anime you have watched for the week. Write on both and compare. For the last week, just write on the one anime. No need to make reference to sources.

*Please note that you will be able to have access to anime and films through the UCSD website. I’ll provide instructions in how to access the online site so to watch it in Japan.

**Due**: every Thursdays (except the last week) at 11:59pm. religion101ucsd@gmail.com

• You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and take all exams in order to pass the course.

**CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:**

**Attendance and Participation**
Active participation for each week comprises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.

**Late Papers**
You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.

**Plagiarism**
The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

**Assistance**
In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me. 😊
Schedule for the course

- Monday and Tuesdays: 9:00 pm – 1:00pm in class
- Wednesday and Thursday – Excursion only day.
- There will be no scheduled activity on Fridays and weekends.

Schedule of Lectures

**August 5-9**

August 5, Monday: Orientation
Welcome Dinner

August 6, Tuesday: Introduction to class

August 7, Wednesday: Japanese Literature in historical context

August 8, Thursday Excursion: Heian Shrine & Haiku

August 9, Thursday Excursion: Kiyomizudera Temple and Waka

Excursion reviews #1

**August 12-16**

August 12, Monday: Classical Japanese Literature:
From Heian period to Tokugawa Period

August 13, Tuesday: Classical Japanese Literature:
From Meiji to Post-War II period
August 14, Wednesday, Excursion: Saiho-Ji Temple

August 15, Thursday Arashiyama Temple

Excursion reviews #2

August 19-23

August 19, Monday Kafu Nagai

August 20, Tuesday Yukio Mishima

August 14, Wednesday, Excursion: Fushimi Inari-Taisha and the Art of pilgrimage poetry

August 15, Thursday, Excursion: Ryoan-Ji and Kinkaku-Ji Temples

Excursion reviews #3

August 26-30

August 26, Monday Yasunari Kawabata & Shusaku Endo

August 27, Tuesday Ryunosuke Akutagawa

August 28, Wednesday, Excursion: Tokyo

Ghibli Museum (TBD)
Inokashira Park

September 1, Thursday, Excursion

Kotoku-in (The Great Buddha of Kamakura)
Museum of Japanese Literature

Excursion reviews #4

September 2-6

September 2, Monday
Hiromi Ito

September 3, Tuesday
Haruki Murakami
Film: Ghost in the Shell

September 4, Wednesday
Excursions:
Kyoto International Manga Museum

September 5, Thursday
Excursions: Nara and its temples
(Todai-ji, Kofuku-ji, etc.)

Sacred Space Project is due at 11:59pm (via email)

September 6, Friday: Farewell Dinner

September 7, Saturday: Pick-up at accommodations & depart for Narita International Airport (NRT) Depart for U.S.