JAPN 330B: “JAPANESE FOLKLORE” Jeffrey DuBois MWF 10:40am-11:35am, BAC-A109, CSB

This course looks at the development of Japanese folklore, exploring the narrative origins of Japanese folk beliefs and myths as well as their transmission and adaptation to the present. With an introduction to theories of folklore, we delve into supernatural tales involving ghosts and shape-shifting creatures as well as moralistic teachings that inform Japanese religious traditions. Class material ranges from The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter (10th century) to collections by 20th century folklorist Yanagita Kunio to the literary adaptations by Akutagawa Ryūnosuke and the anime of Ghibli Studios. Participants will experience the orality of folktales through in-class narrations.

JAPN 330C: “NUCLEAR JAPAN” (ES) Jeffrey DuBois MWF 3:00 - 3:55pm, REINLC-381, SJU

This course explores literary, film, and artistic representations of Japan’s nuclear past from Hiroshima to Fukushima and today. While we consider the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on one hand, and the nuclear meltdown in Fukushima following the triple disaster of March 11, 2011 on the other in their respective specificities, the class also looks for points of convergence and divergence between the understanding of atomic weapons and atomic energy in the imagination of Japan and the world. We look at witness narratives in short story and novel form; dramatic films depicting nuclear issues from Godzilla to the 2012 film Land of Hope, the first feature length film to depict life after the fallout of a nuclear power plant; we traverse through manga, anime, photography, painting, children’s books, poetry, digital art and more to gain insight into the possibilities for expression and representation in the atomic age. We will discuss and debate the ethical arguments behind the decision to drop the atomic bombs, the ethical dilemmas posed by nuclear energy, and the ethics of representing the victimhood of others in art.

We offer a Japanese Minor! (20 credits)

Want to know more? Any questions are welcome!

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