



Syllabus JAPN 313 • Manga, Anime, and Modern Japan: The Reality of an Illusion

Course Description:

This class uses Japanese Manga (cartoons) and Anime (animated films) as modern mirrors that reflect the Japanese experience of rapid economic and social transformation over the past 150 years. Starting with the examination of ancient Buddhist drawings and traditional graphic arts that helped shape a uniquely Japanese style of visual expression, in this course we will trace how popular visual texts such as Manga and Anime sketch out a parallel world that is linked both historically and culturally to the “imagined community” of the Japanese nation-state. In the post-WWII period, Manga and Anime have emerged as profitable commodities and influential experiences: stories of destruction, transformation, growing up, techno-animation, teamwork, gender-bending, and a whole range of other creative and surprising themes can be found in the world of Manga and Anime.

Alongside the academic study of Manga and Anime, this course will also require students to practice manga drawing techniques, storyboarding, and expression in manga form. Students must bring an 8 1/2 by 11” inch drawing pad (unlined), drawing pencils, and an eraser to every class. In addition to in-class exercises in Manga art, students will also turn in bi-weekly “visual feedback”: 1-2 pages of written and drawn reflections on material and ideas covered in class and homework readings. (These visual feedback sheets should also be done on your drawing pad.)

Structure: This course will meet twice weekly, first working towards a foundation in art-historical, cultural, and other “ways of seeing” Japanese Manga and Anime. We will examine major genres of manga and anime, before considering more complex questions about fandom, Otaku culture, censorship, and more. In addition to lectures, students will participate in class discussions informed by a demanding reading schedule (including manga) and by anime watched in class. Time will also be provided for students to view and react to visual feedback sheets done by their peers. All students will be required to try their best to learn manga drawing and structuring techniques as well. (Students who, like me, suck at drawing will not be penalized!)

All students will write a final paper about some aspect of Japanese Manga and/or Anime. Some students may also submit their own original artwork and stories as a creative final project. Students who submit a creative final project of at least 6 pages need only write a 3-5 page final paper. Students who do not submit a final creative project should write a research paper of 10-12 pages. Group work is possible, with permission of the instructor.

Required Text (excerpts will be available on class website):

Schodt, Frederik. Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics. Kodansha. 1983.

All other readings will be posted on the ilearn class website.
It is essential that students keep up with the reading schedule for class!

Media: Manga

Dr. Slump, Devilman, 20th Century Boys, many others.

Media: Anime

Tetsuwan Atomu, Sailor Moon, Akira, Crayon Shin-chan, Sazae-san, Neon Genesis Evangelion, Nihon Mukashibanashi, Ghost in the Shell, Kaze no Tani no Nausicaa, Others.

Upon completion of JAPN 313 students can fulfill the **Literature/Popular Culture ULR** and the **Creative and Artistic Expression ULR**. Students enrolled in 313 also fulfill WLC's MLO 5 (primary culture) for Japanese emphasis students and MLO 6 (secondary culture) for Spanish emphasis students.

WLC's MLO: Cultural Competence

All WLC major will develop a reasonably understanding of the way of thinking (ideas, beliefs, attitudes, values, philosophies), the behavioral practices (patterns of social interactions) and the cultural products—both tangible and intangible (for example, art, history, Literature, music), of the society or major cultures(s) reflected by the language which they have chosen to study.

Evidence: Feedback Sheets, Midterm, Final Reflective Paper.

Video materials will be presented in class, students may wish to rent anime video tapes / DVDs from local video dealers [or borrow from the WLC Lab.] Many of the Anime and Manga used in class can be accessed on the Internet.

Readings: Most reprints and readings can be downloaded from class web site—others will be handed out in class.

Grading: Course Grades will be determined by your ability to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter.

Grading Breakdown for JAPN 313

Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm	30%
Visual Feedback	20%
Final Paper/Project	40%

Total	100%

What I expect from you

This class is not only for “fans” of Japanese anime and manga. Some of you will have years of experience with these pop culture artifacts; others will be encountering them for the first time. I encourage you to by all means celebrate the artistry and originality of Japanese manga and anime, and it is even better if you can actively help other students learn about them as well. Cooperation, sharing, and teamwork (three very popular themes in many manga) can help us all as we study in class, do group-work, and engage in discussion. Be open-minded and do your reading and assignments on time.

Student Ethics/Academic Honor Code

By accepting admission to California State University Monterey Bay you made a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the University policies without compromise or exception. Some policies of the California State University Monterey Bay that constitute violations include but are not limited to:

- Copying or sharing an electronic file/paper/assignment/exam or any portion of it from another student.
- Allowing another student to copy your work or any portion of it.
- Duplicating or distributing copies of copyrighted software program.
- Plagiarism

CLASS ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Jan. 23 (Mon) First Day of class, Spring Semester 2012

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 1/23	Introduction to the Class Manga literacy. Tetsuwan Atomu is Astro Boy.	Atom Boy.	Schodt 12-67. (See course website for this reading.) Read by Monday 1/30.
WED 1/25	Historical Antecedents. Proto Manga and visual arts in Japan. Handout: <u>Notes on Drawing Manga</u>	Slides from “ <u>1000 Years of Manga.</u> ”	Read Lent on History of Manga by 2/1.

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 1/30	Tezuka Osamu and his Progeny.	Kimba the White Lion, others.	Visual Feedback Sheet 1: Due 2/1.
WED 2/1	Student-led Discussion		
			Read Schodt on Boys Comics,68-87 by 2/6.

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 2/6	Shonen Manga	Boys Anime	Read Devilman by 2/13.
WED 2/8			

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 2/13	Shojo Manga (Genga Dash Images)	Girls Anime	Read Schodt 88-105 by 2/15. Read Toku by 2/22.
WED 2/15			Read Kinsella , 220-254 by 2/22.

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 2/20	NO CLASS SESSION (President's Day)		Visual Feedback Sheet 2: Due 2/22.
WED 2/22	Student-led discussion.		

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 2/27	Return of the Cyborg	Ghost in the Shell	TBA
WED 2/29	Cyborg Visions	TBA	

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 3/5	Gag Manga, Family Manga, and Social change in Japan.	Sazae-san, Dr. Slump, Crayon Shin-Chan.	
WED 3/7			Review for Midterm

Week #	Topic(s)	Video	Assignments:
MON 3/12	In-Class Midterm on 3/12 (Open note, open book.)		
WED 3/14			Read Azuma excerpts by 3/28. Visual Feedback Sheet 3: Due 3/28.

Spring Break is from 3/19 to 3/23/12.
Note we will have no class sessions on 3/19, 3/21, AND 3/26.

