

< 科目名 Subject > Japanese Literature B

< 担当者 Instructors > Mark TIEDEMANN

< 授業の到達目標及びテーマ Class Theme >

Contemporary Japanese Literature

< 授業の概要 Summary >

This course is an introduction to some of the fiction being produced in the contemporary society of Japan. First, we will look at three novels and several short stories by one of Japan's most popular contemporary writers, Haruki Murakami, which illustrate his development as a writer and the progress of his ideas about such things as consciousness, imagination, concepts of reality, and the meaning of an existential existence in the modern world. We will also look at works by other contemporary writers who peer into the soul of Japanese society as they see it today.

< 授業計画 Class Plan >

We will read the following novels:

Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World, Haruki Murakami

Norwegian Wood, Haruki Murakami

Kafka on the Shore, Haruki Murakami

Kitchen, Banana Yoshimoto

Out, Natsuo Kirino

Snakes and Earrings, Hitomi Kanehara

In the Miso Soup, Ryu Murakami

Assorted short stories

< 評価方法 Evaluation >

Since the main purpose of a literature class is to give students practice in reading and interpreting works of fiction, students' diligence in closely reading the assigned pieces will be tested in weekly quizzes. Each student will also be required to read a novel off the reading list, analyze a particular theme in a paper, and present a summary of the book and their analysis to the class.

< テキスト Textbooks >

Each student will be responsible for acquiring, on their own, the above 7 novels, probably using amazon.co.jp.