Introduction to L&G/Q Studies 　　　　　　 5/3/2018

FINAL PROJECT 　 Naoko OHRI (WGS M.A. Program)

**Syllabus**

**Name of course:** QUEER FICTION IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

**Course number and Credits:**

**Semester:**

**College and Room:**

**Day and Time:**

**Instructor:** Naoko OHRI [nohri@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:nohri@gradcenter.cuny.edu)

**Course Description:**

This course aims at introducing students to queer studies at the intersection with literary criticism or representational study. You will learn what queer imagination is accomplishing through creative resistance to dominant values, while you will acquire a deeper understanding of Japanese culture. The category of Japanese literature is used as a vehicle to attain that purpose and can include various forms of representation not limited to novels and stories. I take up movies in class and encourage you to analyze pieces of *manga* and animation which are already popular worldwide as a Japan’s specialty.

**Required Texts:**

[NOVELS AND MOVIES]

1. Rieko MATSUURA, *The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P,* Kodansha International, 2009.

(Translated in English by Michael Emmerich, also available in French translation)

\*The original was published in Japan in 1993 and awarded Japan’s most prestigious literary prize for women writers in 1994.

1. Natsuo KIRINO, *Grotesque*, Knopf, 2007, Vintage 2008.

(Translated in English by Rebecca Copeland, also available in Spanish translation)

\*The original was published in Japan in 2003 and awarded the Kyoka Izumi literary prize in the same

year.

1. Miwa NISHIKAWA, *Dreams for Sale*, Vicol Entertainment Ltd., 2012.

(Subtitled in English and Traditional Chinese)

\*Released in Japan in 2012.

1. Miwa NISHIKAWA, *The Long Excuse*, Edko Films Ltd., 2016.

(Subtitled in English and Traditional Chinese)

\*Released in Japan in 2016 and gained hilarious applause in Toronto International Film Festival and Rome Film Festival in addition to domestic successes including *Mainichi* Film Awards and Japan Academy Film Prize.

Nishikawa also published a novel in the same title in 2015 and it was nominated for the Naoki Prize, Japan’s highest honor for entertainment literature within the year (not translated in any foreign language).

1. Fumiko ENCHI, *The Waiting Years*, 1971, Kodansha International, 2002.

(Translated in English by John Bester)

\*The original was published in Japan in 1957 and awarded the Noma Prize, Japan's highest literary

honor in the same year.

[THEORY, CONTEXT AND OTHER READING]

1. Siebers, Tobin. “Disability as Masquerade.” *Literature and Medicine*, vol. 23, no. 1, Spring 2004, pp.

1-22.

1. Gardner, Susan K. “Coming out of the Sexual Harassment Closet: One Woman’s Story of Politics and

Change in Higher Education.” *NWSA Journal*, vol. 21, no. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 171-95.

1. Keene, John. “An Outtake of the Ideological Origins of the American Revolution.” *Conternarratives,* A

New Directions e-book, 2016, pp. 25-37.

1. [Guckenburg](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Saskia+Guckenburg&search-alias=books&field-author=Saskia+Guckenburg&sort=relevancerank), Saskia. "*The Waiting Years* by Fumiko Enchi: Gender Roles in Japanese Society During

the Turn of the 19th Century.” GRIN Publishing, 2012.

**Recommended Texts:**

1. Highsmith, Patricia. *The Price of Salt*. 1952. Dover publications, 2015.
2. Dunn, Katherine. *Geek Love*. 1990. Vintage, 2002.
3. Mitsuyo Kakuta, *The Eighth Day,* Kodansha International, 2010.

(Translated in English by Margaret Mitsutani)

\*The original was published in Japan in 2007 and awarded the *Chuo Koron* (Public Opinion) Literary

Prize within the year.

**Policies:**

Cite in whatever style you choose (footnotes, endnotes, in-text parenthetical citations, etc.), you must avoid plagiarism. See *Avoiding and Detecting Plagiarism: a Guide for Graduate Students with Examples*, which includes the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, for more information: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY> GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Policies/General/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf?ext=.pdf.

CUNY Policy and the Americas with Disablities Act of 1990 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The Graduate Center provides adaptive technologies and services for qualifying students. For more information, please see the section “Student Disability Services” on the page <http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Resources>. Just as importantly, please consult with us during the first week of the semester if we can help meet your need for accommodations in this area.

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

**Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Week 2: The Frontiers of Japanese queer fiction 1/2**

Rieko MATSUURA, *The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P*

**Week 3: The Frontiers of Japanese queer fiction 2/2**

Siebers, Tobin. “Disability as Masquerade”

[Discussion]

**Week 4: The Destinations of the commodification of sexuality 1/4**

Natsuo KIRINO, *Grotesque* (1)

**Week 5: The Destinations of the commodification of sexuality 2/4**

Natsuo KIRINO, *Grotesque* (2)

Gardner, Susan K. “Coming out of the Sexual Harassment Closet: One Woman’s Story of Politics and

Change in Higher Education”

**Week 6: The Destinations of the commodification of sexuality 3/4**

Miwa NISHIKAWA, *Dreams for Sale*

\*Assignment 1 due

**Week 7:** **The Destinations of the commodification of sexuality 4/4**

Keene, John. “An Outtake of the Ideological Origins of the American Revolution”

[Discussion]

**Week 8: The family in change 1/2**

Miwa NISHIKAWA, *The Long Excuse*

**Week 9: The family in change 2/2**

[Discussion]

**Week 10: Anthropological look back to Japanese modern sexuality and family arrangement 1/4**

Fumiko ENCHI, *The Waiting Years* (1)

**Week 11: Anthropological look back to Japanese modern sexuality and family arrangement 2/4**

Fumiko ENCHI, *The Waiting Years* (2)

\*Assignment 2 due

**Week 12: Anthropological look back to Japanese modern sexuality and family arrangement 3/4**

[Guckenburg](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Saskia+Guckenburg&search-alias=books&field-author=Saskia+Guckenburg&sort=relevancerank), Saskia. "*The Waiting Years* by Fumiko Enchi: Gender Roles in Japanese Society During

the Turn of the 19th Century”

**Week 13: Anthropological look back to Japanese modern sexuality and family arrangement 4/4**

[Discussion]

**Week 14: Student presentation 1/2**

[On final project (1)]

**Week 15:** **Student presentation 2/2**

[On final project (2)]

Final project due

**Assignments / Grade Breakdown**

1. Short essay on
2. American queer fiction that you have read OR
3. Japanese *manga* and animation that you have enjoyed (20% of final grade)
4. Draft of Final Project (20% of final grade)
5. Presentation (20% of final grade)
6. Complete Final Project (40% of final grade)

As the first assignment, you will be required to write a short essay (1,000 words) about one of two themes. The next assignment is to write a draft of final writing project. You will be required to take up one text of queer fiction and analyze it in their final project. You will be able to choose a text from the list on this syllabus or if you wish, you may search for another text independently. The third assignment is to make a presentation about your final project. Lastly, you will be required to submit a completed writing project.