



**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
JAPANESE PROGRAMME
JAPA 405 SPECIAL TOPIC
Japanese Myth and The Origins of Japanese Mythology**

TRIMESTER 2 2010
12 July to 13 November 2010

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester dates

Beginning of teaching: Monday 12 July 2010 End of teaching: 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break: 23 August 2010 to 5 September 2010

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

Teaching Staff: Assoc. Prof. Edwina Palmer (Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer)
Office: vZ704
Phone: 463 6465
Email: edwina.palmer@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Tues 9–9.30am, 1.10–2.00pm and Wed 9–10.50am

School Administrators: Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm)VZ610
Nina Cuccurullo (ph. 463 5293)
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Contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students and Students with Disabilities:
VZ507 Dr Ross Woods
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Class times and locations

Lectures: (3 hours per week)
Tuesday: 10.00–11.50am vZ (von Zedlitz) 704
Thursday: 2.10–3.00pm vZ (von Zelditz) 704

Course delivery

The course consists of three hours of 'lectorials' (combined lecture–tutorials) per week.

Communication of Additional Information

All communication will be directly with the students.

Course content

This course is designed for students who have completed a BA in Japanese with grades of above 'B' or its equivalent and who wish to improve their proficiency in Japanese to advanced level. The course aims to introduce students to Japanese mythology, through materials in both the Japanese and English languages. This is a fascinating field of study which may be linked to recent archaeological discoveries, in which much new information is rapidly emerging. More specifically, then, the course aims both to inform and to stimulate thought in students regarding the origins of the Japanese people and their mythology, through written and audio-visual materials, mainly in Japanese, with some supplementary material in English. The course will thus take an interdisciplinary approach to Japanese pre-history and mythology. Topics will include theoretical discourse on orality and mythology; and on the origins of the Japanese in the fields of archaeology, prehistory, history, and physical anthropology; and sources of Japanese myths in ancient literature and folklore. We combine and apply these approaches and sources to explore present beliefs about the provenance of the Japanese people and their myths. Classwork will comprise: (1) lectorial-style classes in English and Japanese on the theoretical frameworks, and recent discoveries, their analysis and interpretations; (2) reading and comprehension of selected passages in Japanese; and (3) relevant audio-visual comprehension. The selected texts are academic in style, linguistically challenging, and intellectually demanding in content, and are written for well-educated native speakers of Japanese.

Learning objectives

The aims of this course are broadly those of any Honours level course: to train you and help you in the transition from undergraduate study to independent postgraduate research for a thesis. The course is designed primarily for English speakers who wish to use Japanese language as a research tool. Expected outcomes include improvement of both intellectual understanding and reading comprehension skills. Understanding of the structure and grammar of modern Japanese is a prerequisite. No knowledge of the classical language is required, but it helps. A firm comprehension of the 2000 or so *jōyō kanji* should be acquired during the course. Characters encountered, however, will not be limited to *jōyō kanji*, and students are expected to be able to use both Japanese lexical dictionaries (*kokugo jiten*) and Japanese *kanji* dictionaries (*kanwa jiten*).

The course aims (a) to increase the student's body of knowledge about mythology in general, Japanese myths and mythology in particular, and the provenance of Japanese myths; and (b) to exercise and, as far as possible, to improve, the student's ability to discuss, interpret intelligently, theorise and present reasoned arguments on the basis of that newly acquired knowledge.

By the end of this course, you should have acquired and demonstrated a variety of skills that prepare you for further research and thesis writing.

After students have successfully completed this course, they should:

- (a) have achieved an advanced comprehension of academic writing in the Japanese language in the disciplines of archaeology, anthropology and mythology.
- (b) be able to read and critique related Japanese and English academic literature with the aid of dictionaries.
- (c) have the ability to discuss in academic-style Japanese and English various topics related to the origins of the Japanese people and their mythology.

Expected workload

- a) Students are required to attend 3 hours of classes per week.
- b) The Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Committee on Workloads and Assessment has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a one trimester, 400-level, 30-point course should work on average 24 hours per week including the three contact hours
- c) Students will be required to prepare adequately the designated material in advance of class. Students will be expected to study and report on related academic literature, as well as carry out their own analyses on a particular aspect of the course content. They will also be expected to give an oral presentation and actively participate in class discussions.
- d) Students should consult dictionaries frequently in writing assignments, researching and preparing for class. This is very time consuming but can't be skimmed. Please do not hesitate to consult the lecturer and other teaching staff if you have any questions about your study.
- e) If your progress is not satisfactory despite spending a large amount of time on study, you should consult the coordinator. Students may visit her office (vZ704) or email (the above address) to make an appointment.

Readings

Materials will be provided throughout the course by the Programme.

Students must have ready access to at least three kinds of dictionaries: *kanji*, *eiwa* and *waei*. They should familiarise themselves early with Japanese lexical dictionaries (*kokugo jiten*) and *kanji* dictionaries (*kanwa jiten*).

Assessment requirements

Assessment covers the skills of reading, writing, formal speaking and aural comprehension.

This course is internally assessed and will comprise:

1.	One oral presentation	10%
2.	Two written assignments (10% + 12%)	22%
3.	Three audio-visual comprehension tests (3 @ 4%)	12%
4.	Four vocabulary tests (4 @ 4%)	16%
5.	Two researched essays (17% + 23%)	40%
		100%

1. 研究発表 One oral presentation (Week 11: *date tbc)

Students will be required to make one oral presentation of 15–20 minutes' duration in Japanese, introducing and summarising a relevant topic (selected by agreement with the lecturer) and fielding subsequent questions from the lecturer and classmates. The presentations are intended to help students increase their knowledge and comprehension of

the Japanese literature, as well as to give them practice and confidence in discussing academic topics in Japanese.

2. 宿題 Two written assignments (Weeks 4, 10: **dates *tbc**)

Students are expected (1) to translate a selected passage from the academic literature in Japanese into academic English, and (2) write a summary and critique in English of a selected passage from the academic literature in Japanese. These assignments are intended to exercise students' research skills and written comprehension, and to challenge their writing ability in academic English.

3. 聴解テスト Three audio-visual comprehension tests (Weeks 5, 7, 11: **dates *tbc**)

Students will be presented with an NHK audiovisual documentary series on the origins of the Japanese. Each screening (5 in total) is 50 minutes. Students will be expected to complete a written aural comprehension test for three of these. A basic vocabulary list will be provided in advance, and students may have an opportunity to preview these screenings before each test.

4. 語彙テスト Four vocabulary tests (Weeks 3, 6, 8, 12: **dates *tbc**)

After each of the four main (pre-)historical periods into which the course is divided (Palaeolithic, Jōmon, Yayoi, Kofun), there will be a vocabulary test on the relevant **written** materials. The kanji will **not** necessarily be restricted only to those in the *jōyō kanji* lists. The aim of the tests is to extend, reinforce and revise the students' grasp of specialist and academic vocabulary encountered in the written discourse, and to facilitate and reinforce advanced knowledge and acquisition of reading and writing *kanji*.

5. Two researched essays (Weeks 6, 13: **dates *tbc**)

This will be an essay written in English on the student's particular topic of interest, with the approval of the course coordinator, and with emphasis on analysis of relevant discourse. The essay should be approximately 2500 words. The aim is to exercise students' research and analytical skills; to hone their understanding of the Japanese and English discourse; and to improve their academic writing skills in English.

Penalties

- a) The deadlines for assignments and the method of assessment will be notified with each assignment. If an assignment is submitted late, 5% of the total mark will be deducted for each day over the deadline.
- b) If students are unable to give presentations on the day or complete assignments by the due date due to unforeseen circumstances, they must inform the lecturer prior to the date or deadline. If you are ill, you must provide a medical certificate within two weeks.
- c) Failure to submit coursework or to sit tests without prior warning may result in a nil mark.

Mandatory course requirements

Students must attend at least 80% of all lectures, sit all tests, and all assignments must be submitted by their due dates.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately.

This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General university policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx

Tentative Schedule

Week/ Lecture #	こうぎないよう 講義内容— 前史・歴史学	こうぎないよう 講義内容— 神話学	Assessment due this week*
1 1.	オリエンテーション 日本での考古学の事	オリエンテーション 神話とは何か?	

2. 3.	情	こうしやう 口承文学とは何か？ Sources: 古事記、日本書紀、風土記	
2 4. 5. 6.	氷河時代・ 旧石器時代 Palaeolithic Era	神話学史 Lévi-Strauss and Structuralism こうぞうろん 構造論	
3 7. 8. 9.	“The Mammoth Hunters” at Nojiri-ko	なかざわしんいち 中沢新一 Myths of the Pleiades and the ‘Swan Maiden’ type	語彙テスト 1 4% DVD 1
4 10. 11. 12.	Global Warming しょうようじゅりん 照葉樹林文化論 ‘Laurilignosa’ Culture	Creation myths Izanagi and Izanami	宿題 1 10%
5 13. 14. 15.	縄文時代早期 Early Jōmon 上野原遺跡 Uenohara Site	Trickster myths: The White Rabbit of Inaba いなばのしろうさぎ 因幡白兔	DVD 2 + 聴解テスト 1 4%
6 16. 17. 18.		The origins of mortality: 「バナナ・タイプ」 Konohanasakuya-hime and Iwanaga-hime	語彙テスト 2 4% Essay 1 due 17%
Mid-trimester break			
7 19. 20. 21.	縄文海進 Holocene Maximum 縄文時代中期 Mid-Jōmon: 三内丸山遺跡 Sannai-Maruyama Site	Flood myths: The Luck of the Sea and the Luck of the Mountain	DVD 3 + 聴解テスト 2 4%
8 22. 23. 24.	弥生時代 Yayoi Period 吉野ヶ里遺跡 Yoshinogari Site	Ōnamuchi and Sukunahikone	語彙テスト 3 4%
9 25. 26. 27.	唐古・鍵遺跡 Karako-Kagi Site	Place name origin myths: Asauchi-yama, Harihara	DVD 4
10 28. 29. 30.	古墳時代 Kofun Period 高松塚古墳 Takamatsuzuka Kofun 大和朝廷	Imperial legend: Oke and Woke	宿題 2 12%

	Yamato ascendancy		
11 31. 32. 33.		Orality, taboo and punning The sacred: Wome-no Poem The Profane: The Carp Poem	DVD 5 + 聴解テスト 3 4% 研究発表 10%
12 34. 35. 36.		Yanagita, Orikuchi and the Folklore Movement The Tales of Tōno The Kind and Unkind Girl type	語彙テスト 4 4%
13			Essay 2 due 23%

* Exact dates in each week to be negotiated with student(s).