

KYOTO CONSORTIUM FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic Year: 2009 - 2010 Semester: Fall

Course Title: Japanese Theater

Instructor : Ayako Kano

Number of meetings per week: 2x90 minutes=3 hours per week

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine the Japanese theatrical tradition in its historical and comparative contexts. The readings and discussions will cover all areas of the theatrical experience (script, acting, stage design, costumes, music, audience). The genres to be discussed will include noh, kyogen, kabuki, puppet theater, modern and contemporary theater. Audio-visual materials will be used whenever available and appropriate. Field trips to performances of both classical and contemporary theater will be integrated in the class.

Requirements:

Weekly readings and informal written responses.

Attendance at theatrical performances and written responses.

One short essay (analysis of noh play).

Take home final (two essays) or final project (research paper, or creative project).

Textbooks:

1. Ortolani, Benito, The Japanese Theatre: From Shamanistic Ritual to Contemporary

Pluralism, rev. ed. (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1995).

ISBN-10: 0691043337

ISBN-13: 978-0691043333

2. Royall Tyler, ed. and trans. Japanese Nô Dramas (New York: Penguin 1992).

ISBN-10: 0140445390

ISBN-13: 978-0140445398

3. Donald Keene, trans. Chushingura (The Treasury of Loyal Retainers): A Puppet Play, by Takeda Izumo, Miyoshi Shoraku, and Namiki Senryu (New York: Columbia UP, 1971).

ISBN-10: 0231035314

ISBN-13: 978-0231035316

4. Ayako Kano, Acting Like a Woman in Modern Japan: Theater, Gender, Nationalism (New York: Palgrave, 2001).

ISBN-10: 0312292910

ISBN-13: 978-0312292911

Additional Comments:

Partial list of topics to be covered:

Part 1: Introduction to Japanese Theater

Part 2: Noh, Kyogen, and European Theater

Introduction to Noh

Noh and Kyogen

Noh Adaptations by European Artists

Part 3: Puppet Theater

Introduction to Puppet Theater

Chushingura

Part 4: Gender in Theater

Kabuki

Takarazuka

New Theater

Part 5: Modern and Contemporary Theater

Art for Social Reform and Art for Art's Sake

Underground and Popular Theater

Butoh and Postmodern Performances