

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASIA 254: SEX, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY IN JAPANESE LITERATURE AND FILM

Instructor	Dr Nick Hall	email	nick.hall@ubc.ca
Office	Auditorium Annex B205	Office hours	M, T, Th, F 10:00 – 10:50 am
Meeting times	Tu/Th 12:30 – 2:00pm	Room	BUCH A104

COURSE DESCRIPTION

send email



In this course we will explore sex, gender, and sexuality in literature and films from Japan in a variety of genres from the classical period to the contemporary era in short stories, manga, novels, and films. Topics will include heterosexuality, bisexuality, and homosexuality; trans identities; gender and social roles; cross dressing; sex work; sado-masochism, and more. By the end of this course, you will have basic knowledge of Japanese cultural history and depictions of sex, gender and sexuality in Japanese literature, as well as the basic academic tools necessary to understand, analyze, and discuss literary and visual texts, and to express and support your opinions in academic writing and debate.

In ASIA 254 we deal with human sexuality in an open and frank manner. We will be reading, watching, writing about, and debating materials that include explicit depictions—in writing and in visual images and film—of nudity, sex, violence (including sexual violence and sexualized violence), and other subject matter that is intended for adults and that some people may find offensive or disturbing. If for any reason you will not be comfortable dealing with such materials you should not take this course. If you are under 18 years old please see me at the end of the first class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS (for evaluation and assignments, see below)

Because it is a literature course, ASIA 254 requires a lot of reading. There will be more reading in some weeks than in others, but you should schedule at **least two hours per class meeting** (i.e. at minimum 4 hours per week) in your calendar for reading. **Do not take the course if you do not want to read.**

New items and important concepts will be introduced in short lectures, but this is not a lecture course: do not expect to spend every class silently listening to the instructor. Instead, ASIA 254 centres on student-led debate, so there will be discussions during most of our class meetings. **Do not take the course if you do not want to participate actively in class discussions.**

- You must come to each class having already done the required reading, and bring a copy of the reading with you; paper copies are preferred; electronic copies (on a laptop, tablet, or e-reader, but not on a phone) are also permitted (see Electronics Policy, below)
- While reading, you must keep a Reading Journal with ample notes about main characters, significant events, plot lines, and so on, including specific page numbers, that you can refer to and cite during the in-class discussions. You will hand this Reading Journal in at the end of the term
- You are expected come to every class prepared to talk about the issues and texts we are studying. This means that you must prepare questions and topics to contribute to class discussions. **I will ask you to submit these from time to time, so bring them on paper**

REQUIRED TEXTS, MATERIALS, & SOFTWARE

You are responsible for all material presented in the lectures, assigned readings, and the films viewed in class (films are in Japanese with English subtitles).

Items you must purchase at the UBC Bookstore

1. Yoshimoto, Banana: *Kitchen*. New York: Raincoast Books, 1993. (a novel)
2. iClicker Plus Classroom Response System

All other required readings are provided at no cost for use in this course only. You will find them on [Connect](#). Films will be screened in class and may not be available at the Library or elsewhere; you must attend class to see them.

About the iClicker

Each student is required to either purchase a personal iClicker, or to download and subscribe to the Reef app on his or her phone; in either case the device must be registered to your name in ASIA 254 and brought to class every day. The clickers will be used for gaining feedback, taking attendance, conducting quizzes, and for class discussions.

iClickers are [available](#) at the UBC Bookstore for approximately \$45 new and \$35 used. You can use the iClicker in all courses that use the system for as long as you are a student at UBC. If you choose instead to subscribe to the Reef app on your phone the cost is about \$15 per semester (other subscriptions are available). Go to app.reef-education.com for more information and to subscribe.

Please note: Using the iClicker or phone of another student who is enrolled in the course is a form of cheating. Anyone found to be doing so will be expelled from the class and may be subject to further disciplinary action for academic dishonesty. No exceptions.

TurnItIn

All work submitted for this class will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn, so you must create a TurnItIn account. Go to www.turnitin.com and follow the instructions. When you have created your account, you can search for the course:

Class ID: 13111844
Password: BUCH104

EVALUATION Note: no make-up or extra credit work is available. Late work will not be accepted.

Attendance, Participation, and Preparation	20
Quizzes	5
Reading Journal	10
Short papers	10
Midterm Exam	20
Final Paper	35

Attendance



Per University policy, you are expected to attend every class meeting. Attending means arriving on time and staying until the end of class. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness, disability, or other reasons should report to the instructor as soon as possible, and consult with the Academic Advising Office. Attendance will not be given a separate mark, but if you are absent more than once over the term it will negatively affect your grade. If you leave after attendance has been taken but before the end of class, you will be marked as absent for that day. If you arrive after attendance has been taken it is your responsibility to notify the instructor; being frequently late, or being marked absent more than twice over the term, will affect your Participation mark.

Participation and Preparation

Participation counts for a significant portion of your final grade for this course, but participation does not mean simply *attending* every class. **You are expected to take an active role in our class discussions in each meeting, and will be graded accordingly.**

Preparation means doing all the readings, taking careful reading notes (with page numbers) and generally coming to class ready to be fully involved. You must come to every class prepared to talk about the issues and texts we are studying, so bring your reading notes with you.

- **By the end of the course, each student must have posted a response or a new thread for at least ten of the online discussion topics. Posts must be made before 12:00pm on the day the item will be discussed.** The postings are intended to kick off our conversation on the works we have read so that it can be continued in class. Free and open discussion is encouraged, but please contribute when you have something to say rather than simply posting for the sake of posting.
- You must also prepare questions and topics to contribute to class discussions. **I will ask you to submit these from time to time** (days will not be announced in advance), **so bring them on paper.**

Quizzes

Short, unannounced in-class quizzes using the iClicker and based on the current reading(s).

Reading Journal

As you read you must keep detailed notes on every work, both texts and films, including: the author's name; title of the work; type of work; date of publication; names of and details about main characters; details and literary significance of plot lines and important events (with page numbers); your own interpretations; important questions raised by the reading, and so on (an example will be posted on Connect).

You will submit your Reading Journal at the end of the term. Further details will be announced.

Short Papers

Two short papers based on current readings. Details to be announced.

Midterm Examination

In class. Details to be announced.

Final Paper

A literary analysis paper based on one or more of the works of fiction (including films) studied in ASIA 254. Details to be announced.

CLASS POLICIES

Ground Rules for In-Class Discussion

This course deals with topics which may be sensitive and that some people find hard to talk about in public. At times you may find that the materials and the discussion are challenging or make you feel uncomfortable. The aim is for the classroom to be a place where everyone feels respected, but *not* one where there are no difficult—sometimes even unpleasant—topics or controversy. Our goal is not to agree, but to gain deeper understanding. To ensure open, respectful dialogue and maximum participation, observe the following rules:

- Listen actively: respect others when they are talking
- Not everyone in the room is a native English speaker: be supportive
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but do not make personal attacks: focus on ideas, not people
- Avoid inflammatory language

Electronics Policy

This class focuses on student engagement and discussion. Electronics are distracting, both for the user and for students seated near the user. In this course, please take class notes using paper and pen.

In an effort to save you money, the majority of the required readings for the course have been provided for you in electronic form. You must bring the relevant reading(s) to class each day; paper copies are preferred, but electronic copies are permitted, provided that all students comply with the Electronics Policy:

- Each student is permitted to use in class one electronic device only for the purpose displaying the required readings (students may instead print the readings and bring them on paper)
- For the purpose of displaying readings in class, students may use one laptop or one tablet, or one e-reader, but phones are NOT permitted for this purpose
- Phones may be used in class only for completing tasks requiring the iClicker, and only by those students who have subscribed to the Reef app and registered it in ASIA 254 at the start of term instead of purchasing an iClicker device. At all other times phones must be switched to silent and put away

- Phones are not permitted on desks during class. Students who use their phones for texting or other non-academic uses during class will be asked to leave
- Wi-Fi must be disabled for all internet-capable devices during class

Note: If it becomes apparent that students are abusing the electronics policy by using their devices—including phones, laptops, tablets and e-readers—for working on other courses or assignments, or for texting, using email or the internet, or online chat, playing games, or for other non-academic activities, or are otherwise distracted by (or distracting other students with) their electronics during class, I will ban all such devices from the classroom and require all readings to be printed on paper for the remainder of the term.

Academic Honesty



You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University's policies about academic honesty. If you have any doubts, consult with the instructor before submitting any assignment.

You can find basic information at <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>

All work submitted for this course will be checked for academic honesty, both manually by the instructor, and electronically, using plagiarism-detecting software (TurnItIn).

If you submit someone else's work as your own; do not cite your sources (such as using someone else's words or ideas without giving that person credit); submit the same or substantially similar work for which you have already received credit in another course; or cheat in some other way (for example by looking at another student's paper or allowing another student to look at your paper during a test) you will receive, at minimum, a score of zero for the assignment or examination in question.

All instances of cheating will be reported to both the Department Head and to the Dean, and will remain on your permanent academic record.

Additional penalties may apply, which may include a score of zero for the entire course, a temporary suspension from your studies, or permanent dismissal from the University.

Note that using the iClicker or phone of another student enrolled in the course is a form of cheating. Anyone found to be doing so will be expelled from the class in addition to the disciplinary action described above.

In short: please do not be tempted to cheat. It is more likely than not that you will be caught. If you are having difficulty, please talk to me; I will do everything I can to help you.