

Classical Japanese Literature 2018-2019

Dr Jennifer Guest, Associate Professor in Classical Japanese Literature, Faculty of Oriental Studies

This course will be taught in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms.

This course provides a survey of texts and topics in Japanese literature from earliest times to the early nineteenth century, with readings in English translation from a wide range of primary sources as well as suggested secondary readings on key topics in the literature of each period. The course aims to give students an overview of key texts, authors, and genres in the pre-modern Japanese literary tradition, while also helping them develop critical tools for thinking about that tradition and for approaching literary texts in a variety of ways.

Students should attend the lecture series in Classical Japanese Literature (MT, 8 hours) and are also encouraged to participate in the discussion seminar series Topics in Court Poetry (HT, 8 hours) for focused small-group discussion of selected poems of various periods. In MT students will submit an essay on an assigned topic by the end of week 4, to be discussed in tutorial.

Examination will be by a three-hour written examination in Trinity Term.

Suggested introductory reading:

- Haruo Shirane, Tomi Suzuki, and David Lurie eds., *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)
- Donald Keene, *Seeds in the Heart: Japanese Literature from Earliest Times to the Late Sixteenth Century* (Columbia University Press, 1999)
- Haruo Shirane, Sonja Arntzen et al. eds., *Traditional Japanese Literature* (Columbia University Press, 2007)
- Sumie Jones and Ken Watanabe eds., *An Edo Anthology: Literature from Japan's Mega-City, 1750-1850* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013)