

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LITERATURE  
ST. MARY COLLEGE/NUNOIKE GAIGO SENMON GAKKO  
SPRING SEMESTER

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<i>Instructor:</i> Joseph J. Pielech	<i>Email:</i> josephpielech@gmail.com
<i>Class Time:</i> Thursdays, 11.00-12.30	<i>Office Hours:</i> All day, everyday. ☺
<i>Classroom:</i> 328	<i>Office Phone:</i> 052.937.7145

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Success is a ladder that cannot be climbed with your hands in your pocket ~ *Joe's Dad*

Life becomes precious and more special to us when we look for the little everyday miracles and get excited about the privileges of simply being human ~ *Tim Hansel*

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, that is way great spiritual giants are produced. ~ *Swami Vivekananda*

Don't wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. So what. Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident and more and more successful. ~ *Mark Victor Hansen*

### *Course Description*

Our course this semester will look to coalesce issues that have been discussed at various points of your St. Mary career as well as traversing new material that we have not previously studied. Our first reading is *Patriotism* by Yukio Mishima. *Patriotism* reveals a couple's courage, love and faith as well as the man's commitment to his country and, ultimately, glorifies the ritual suicide of Lieutenant Takeyama Shinji and his wife. Our second test, *Yukiguni* by Yasunari Kawabata, tells the story of the liaison between the onsen geisha, Komako, and the male protagonist, a wealthy loner that is doomed to failure. Finally, we will read Kenzaburo Oe's masterpiece *A Personal Matter*; a semi-autobiographical novel that is dark and deeply personal as it tells the story of Bird, a man who must come to terms with the birth of his mentally disabled son. I must admit that the readings are not linguistically challenging; however, they are academically, philosophically, emotionally and psychologically challenging and we will, hopefully, have rich discussions far beyond the confines of the texts. As usual, there will be a final course paper/reflective essay which will address what you have learned in this course and how you have grown as a person because of the readings and discussions.

### *Required Texts*

- ❖ Oe, K. (2008). *A Personal Matter*. Grove Press, New York.
- ❖ Mishima, Y. (1995). *Patriotism*. New Directions: New York
- ❖ Kawabata, Y. (1996). *Yukiguni*. Vintage: London.

*Course Objectives*

- i. Students will have the opportunity to synthesize the past 2 years of their St. Mary education;
- ii. Students will confront some of the necessary issues in personal development and apply them to their lives.

*Evaluation*

Attendance.....	25%
Participation.....	45%
Reflective Essay.....	30%

*Schedule for Patriotism*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pages 1-33
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pages 33-57

*Schedule for Yukiguni*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pages 3-55
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pages 56-110
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pages 111-139
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pages 140-175

*Schedule for A Personal Matter*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 1-2
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 3-5
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 6-8
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapters 9-10
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 11-13

*Attendance*

You are required to attend every class. You will be permitted 1 unexcused absence. For each absence thereafter, your attendance grade will be lowered 1 full letter grade. If you miss 3 classes, you will fail the course.

*Participation*

Class participation is vitally important to academic success. I want students to come to class prepared to exchange ideas and analyze our readings. Although I can make allowances for shyness and occasional exhaustion, I expect students to give signs of having read and thought about the texts and ideas we are discussing. There are no dumb questions, only dumb silences. You will be evaluated not only how often you contribute to group and class discussions but also on the quality of your contributions. Additionally, your preparedness and clarity are critically important to not only your course grade but your understanding of the material as well.

### *Reflective Essay (July 16)*<sup>1</sup>

There is a reflective essay in this course. Your reflective essay—a piece of writing you complete at the end of our literature course—is an opportunity for you to look back on all of your hard work in the class. Your assignment is to write an essay (600-800 words) that evaluates and reflects on what you've learned in this course. Some questions to ponder: what was the most interesting/important thing you learned in our course? Was the course valuable? How do you think you've matured as a student or human being during the course? Has the course affected you or impacted your life in a significant way? How well do you think you did in this class? What would you change, if you could change anything, about your performance in this class? What other topics would you like to have covered?

### *Coursework and Conduct*

- This course demands daily participation. Because we have a short period, we need to start on time and end on time. I expect students to bring the relevant text with notes, to be prepared for presentations, responses, and discussion.
- For each class, expect to read roughly 30-50 pages, spending 2 – 3 hours in preparation for discussion.
- **Active Reading:** Active Reading means, among other things, writing in your book. Your use of active reading is the core of understanding, and full engagement with the texts will certainly enhance your grade. The basic techniques of active reading involve:
  - 1) Using the margins to take notes, ask questions, draw diagrams.
  - 2) Underlining important or striking passages.
  - 3) Boxing new terms, characters, or repetition of ideas.
  - 4) Summarizing your response to the work at the end of the text.
  - 5) Jotting down words or references you need to research.

Be aware that the material, while translated into English, includes Japanese words, cultural references, and places. It is your responsibility as an active reader to identify such terms, or to ask questions.

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<sup>1</sup> **All external papers must be typed.** If you do not have your own computer and/or printer, computer labs and resources are available at the college. Papers must be submitted with a title page including your name, my name, the course, the date on which the paper is submitted and some kind of identifying title. Use must use a 12 point font with serifs (e.g. Times New Roman, Courier New, Georgia Garamond, Century, Book Antiqua, Sylfaen) with one-inch (2.5cm) margins on all borders of your text with a 'ragged' right edge. Papers must be double-spaced and pages must be numbered in the center of the page at the bottom. Failure to meet *any* these guidelines will result in a grade lowered by a full letter (an A becomes a B, etc.) for that assignment.

ACADEMIC STUDIES II  
ST. MARY COLLEGE  
SPRING SEMESTER

<i>Instructor:</i> Joseph J. Pielech	<i>Email:</i> josephpielech@gmail.com
<i>Class Time:</i> Wednesdays 1.10-2.45	<i>Office Hours:</i> Everyday until 5pm
<i>Classroom:</i> 328	<i>Office Phone:</i> 052.937.7145

*Required Text*

- ❖ Williams, J. (2009). *50 Facts That Should Change The World* (Revised Edition). New York: The Disinformation Company.

*Course Overview*

This course will cover an eclectic selection of facts addressing a broad range of global issues, now with added emphasis on climate change, the decline in human rights and democratic freedoms around the world, the unexpected global impact of corporate growth, sports and media madness and inequality, and lots of updated facts and figures. Each is followed by a short essay explaining the story behind the fact, fleshing out the bigger problem lurking behind the numbers. Real-life stories, anecdotes, and case studies help to humanize the figures and make clear the human impact of the bald statistics. All of the facts remind us that whether we like to think of it or not, the world is interconnected and civilization is a fragile concept. Williams makes us think about some of the hard facts about our civilization, and what we can do about them.

*Tentative Reading Schedule*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
April 14	Course Introduction 1. The average Japanese woman can expect to live to be 84. The average Batswana will reach just 39. 2. A third of the world's obese people live in the developing world. 3. The US and Britain have the highest teen pregnancy rates in the developing world.
April 21	4. China has 44 million missing women. 5. Brazil has more Avon ladies than members of its armed services. 6. Eighty-one percent of the world's executions in 2005 took place in just four countries: China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the USA.
April 28	7. British supermarkets know more about their consumers than the British government does. 8. Every cow in the European Union is subsidised by \$2.50 a day. That's more than what 75 per cent of Africans have to live on. 9. In more than 70 countries, same-sex relationships are illegal. In nine countries, the penalty is death. 10. One in five of the world's people live on less than a \$1 a day.
May 12	11. More than 12,000 women are killed each year in Russia as a result of domestic violence. 12. In 2006, 16 million Americans had some form of plastic surgery. 13. Landmines kill or maim at least one person every hour. 14. There are 44 million child labourers in India. 15. People in industrialised countries eat between fourteen and fifteen of food additives every year.

May 19	<p>16. David Beckham's deal with the LA Galaxy Football team will earn him \$100 every minute.</p> <p>17. Seven million American women and 1 million American men suffer from eating disorder.</p> <p>18. Twenty-eight percent of American teenagers have tried illegal drugs and more than a quarter are regular cigarette smokers.</p> <p>19. One million people become new mobile subscribers everyday. some eighty-five percent of them live in emerging markets.</p> <p>20. Cars kill two people every minute.</p>
May 26	<p>21. Since 1977, there have been nearly 120,000 acts of violence or disruption at abortion clinics in North America.</p> <p>22. Global warming already kills 150,000 every year.</p> <p>23. In Kenya, bribery payments make up a third of the average household budget.</p> <p>24. The world's trade in illegal drugs is estimated to be worth around \$400 billion – about the same as the world's legal pharmaceutical industry.</p> <p>25. A third of Americans believe aliens have landed on Earth.</p>
June 1	<p>26. More than 150 countries use torture.</p> <p>27. Everyday, one in five of the world's population – some 800 million people – go hungry.</p> <p>28. Black men born in the US today stand a one in three chance of going to jail.</p> <p>29. A third of the world's population is at war.</p>
June 8	<p>30. The world's oil reserves could be exhausted by 2040.</p> <p>31. Eighty-two percent of the world's smokers live in developing countries.</p> <p>32. Britons buy 3 million items of clothing every year – an average of 50 pieces each. Most of which end up being thrown away.</p> <p>33. A quarter of the world's armed conflicts of recent years have involved a struggle for natural resources.</p>
June 25	<p>34. Some 30 million people in Africa are HIV-positive.</p> <p>35. Ten languages die out every year.</p> <p>36. More people die each year from suicide than in all world's armed conflicts.</p> <p>37. Every week, an average of 54 children are expelled from American schools for bringing a gun to class.</p> <p>38. There are at least 300,000 prisoners of conscience in the world.</p> <p>39. Two million girls and women are subjected to female genital mutilation each year.</p>
June 29	<p>40. There are 300,000 child soldiers fighting conflicts around the world.</p> <p>41. Nearly 26 million people voted in 2001 British General Election. More than 32 million votes were cast in the first season of Pop Idol.</p> <p>42. One in six English teenagers believe that reality television will make them famous.</p> <p>43. In 2005, the US spent \$554 billion on its military. This is 29 times the combined military spending of the six "rogue states".</p> <p>44. There are 27 million slaves in the world today.</p>
July 7	<p>enough bottles to reach all the way to the moon every three weeks.</p> <p>46. The average urban Briton is caught on camera up to 300 times a day.</p>

	47. Some 120,000 women and girls are trafficked into Western Europe every year.
July 14	48. A kiwi fruit flown from New Zealand to Britain emits five times its own weight in greenhouse gases. 49. The US owes the United Nations more than \$1 billion in unpaid dues. 50. Children living in poverty are three times more likely to suffer a mental illness than children from wealthy families.

### *Reflective Essay (July 16)*

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### *Attendance Policy*

- 2 Absences = ‘F’ in the course, regardless of what you do in the course.
- 15 minutes late or if you leave early or take a long smoking break = 1 absence

### *Late Work Policy*

My late work policy is simple and clear: I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. Only in the case of extreme circumstances will I even consider accepting an assignment after the due date. Please keep this policy in mind and plan accordingly. If your compulsively clean mother (grandmother, roommate, sister, second cousin, significant other) disposes of your work because you leave it on the dining table (hall credenza, kitchen counter, in the *genkan*); if a curiously selective breeze or a thief with a strange predilection for English grammar plucks it from the back seat of your car; or if your ravenous and obstreperous pet ostrich (dog, goat, pot-bellied pig) who has a penchant for 8½ by 11 white paper consumes it for breakfast, you are simply out of luck. Thus, you will be well advised to make back-up copies of word processed papers on floppy disks. Since computers are unpredictable at best and outright malevolent at worst, you might even want to make two such copies on separate disks.

### *Participation*

Class participation is vitally important to academic success. I want students to come to class prepared to exchange ideas and analyze our readings. Although I can make allowances for shyness and occasional exhaustion, I expect students to give signs of having read and thought about the texts and ideas we are discussing. There are no dumb questions, only dumb silences. You will be evaluated not only how often you contribute to group and class discussions but also on the quality of your contributions. Additionally, your preparedness and clarity are critically important to not only your course grade but your understanding of the material as well.

### *Format for Assignments*

All external papers must be typed. If you do not have your own computer and/or printer, computer labs and resources are available at the college or at an Internet cafe. Papers must be submitted with a title page including an original title, your name, my name, the course, and the date on which the paper is submitted on the due date, not before and not after. Emailing papers is acceptable, as long as the paper is emailed on the due date. Use a 12 point font with serifs (セリフ) with one-inch (2.5cm) margins on all borders of your text with a 'ragged' right edge. Papers must be double-spaced and pages must be numbered in the center of the page at the bottom. Failure to meet any these guidelines will result in a grade lowered by a full letter (an A becomes a B, etc.) for that assignment.

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- For each class, expect to read roughly 25 pages, spending 2 – 3 hours in preparation for discussion.
- Active Reading: Active Reading means, among other things, writing in your book. Your use of active reading is the core of understanding, and full engagement with the texts will certainly enhance your grade. The basic techniques of active reading involve:
  - 1) Using the margins to take notes, ask questions, draw diagrams.
  - 2) Underlining important or striking passages.
  - 3) Boxing new terms, characters, or repetition of ideas.
  - 4) Summarizing your response to the work at the end of the text.
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ACADEMIC STUDIES: TOPICS FOR OVERSEAS STUDENT  
ST. MARY COLLEGE/NUNOIKE GAIGO SENMON GAKKO  
SPRING SEMESTER

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*Instructor:* Joseph J. Pielech

*Email:* nagoyajoe@lycos.com

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*Class Time:* Wednesdays 1.10-2.45

*Office Hours:* All day, everyday. ☺

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*Classroom:* 328

*Office Phone:* 052.937.7145

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Success is a ladder that cannot be climbed with your hands in your pocket ~ Joe's Dad

Life becomes precious and more special to us when we look for the little everyday miracles and get excited about the privileges of simply being human ~ Tim Hansel

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, that is way great spiritual giants are produced. ~ Swami Vivekananda

Don't wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. So what. Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident and more and more successful. ~ Mark Victor Hansen

### *Course Description*

Our course this semester will look to coalesce issues that have been discussed at various points of your St. Mary career as well as giving you practical advice to living and thriving (*not surviving*) in the United States. The first part of the course will be devoted to Kyoko Mori's<sup>1</sup> classic review of herself as a woman caught in between cultures. The themes of this book are psychology, sociology, anthropology and cultural studies. I believe that the topics addressed in the book (i.e. language, bodies, lies, etc.) are relevant to you: intelligent, young Japanese who desire to study abroad in the United States. The second half of the course will focus on strategies and life lessons that target genuine human success. I must admit that the readings are not linguistically challenging; however, they are academically and psychologically challenging and we will, hopefully, have rich discussions far beyond the confines of the texts. As usual, there will be a final course paper/reflective essay which will address what you have learned in this course and how you have grown as a person because of the readings and discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> Kyoko Mori teaches creative writing and literature at St. Norbert College, a sister school of St. Mary College! ☺

### *Required Texts*

- Mori. K. (2005). *Polite Lies: On Being a Woman Caught Between Cultures*. New York: Ballantine.
- Urban, H. (2003). *Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter*. New York: Fireside.

### *Course Objectives*

- i. Students will have the opportunity to synthesize the past 2 years of their St. Mary education;
- ii. Begin to explore issues related to potential majors;
- iii. Students will confront some of the necessary issue in personal development and apply them to their lives.

### *Evaluation*

Attendance.....	20%
Participation.....	.50%
Course Paper (Mori).....	.15%%
Course Paper (Urban).....	15%

### *Schedule for Polite Lies*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
Wed. 4/25	Chapters 1 &2
Wed. 5/9	Chapters 3 & 4
Wed. 5/16	Chapters 5 & 6
Wed. 5/23	Chapters 7 & 8
Wed. 5/30	Chapters 9 &10
Wed. 6/6	Chapters 11 & 12
Wed. 6/13	Review, Discussion and Critique of the book

Paper Due: Friday 6/22

### *Schedule for Life's Greatest Lessons*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
Wed. 6/20	Introduction – Attitude is a Choice (pp. xix – 46)
Wed. 6/27	Habits are the Key to All Success – Kind Words Cost Little (pp. 47 – 90)
Wed. 7/4	Real motivation Comes from Within – No One Else Can Raise Your Self-Esteem (pp. 91-140)
Wed. 7/11	The Body Needs Nutrition and Exercise – Thank You (pp. 141-167)
Wed. 7/18	Review, Discussion and Critique of the book

Paper Due: Friday 6/20

### *Attendance*

You are required to attend every class. You will be permitted 1 unexcused absence. For each absence thereafter, your attendance grade will be lowered 1 full letter grade. If you miss 5 classes, you will fail the course.

### *Participation*

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### *Reflective Essay (Mori: Friday 6/22; Urban: Friday 6/20)<sup>2</sup>*

There is a reflective essay in this course. Your reflective essay—a piece of writing you complete at the end of our psychology course—is an opportunity for you to look back on all of your hard work in the class. Your assignment is to write an essay (600-800 words) that evaluates and reflects on what you've learned this year in English. Some questions to ponder: what was the most interesting/important thing you learned in our course? Was the course valuable? How do you think you've matured as a student or human being during the course? Has the course affected you or impacted your life in a significant way? How well do you think you did in this class? What would you change, if you could change anything, about your performance in this class? What other topic would you like to have covered? Any suggestions for the format of the class for next semester?

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ACADEMIC STUDIES II  
ST. MARY COLLEGE  
SPRING SEMESTER 2010

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June 29	<p>40. There are 300,000 child soldiers fighting conflicts around the world.</p> <p>41. Nearly 26 million people voted in 2001 British General Election. More than 32 million votes were cast in the first season of Pop Idol.</p> <p>42. One in six English teenagers believe that reality television will make them famous.</p> <p>43. In 2005, the US spent \$554 billion on its military. This is 29 times the combined military spending of the six "rogue states".</p> <p>44. There are 27 million slaves in the world today.</p>
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My late work policy is simple and clear: I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK. Only in the case of extreme circumstances will I even consider accepting an assignment after the due date. Please keep this policy in mind and plan accordingly. If your compulsively clean mother (grandmother, roommate, sister, second cousin, significant other) disposes of your work because you leave it on the dining table (hall credenza, kitchen counter, in the *genkan*); if a curiously selective breeze or a thief with a strange predilection for English grammar plucks it from the back seat of your car; or if your ravenous and obstreperous pet ostrich (dog, goat, pot-bellied pig) who has a penchant for 8½ by 11 white paper consumes it for breakfast, you are simply out of luck. Thus, you will be well advised to make back-up copies of word processed papers on floppy disks. Since computers are unpredictable at best and outright malevolent at worst, you might even want to make two such copies on separate disks.

### *Participation*

Class participation is vitally important to academic success. I want students to come to class prepared to exchange ideas and analyze our readings. Although I can make allowances for shyness and occasional exhaustion, I expect students to give signs of having read and thought about the texts and ideas we are discussing. There are no dumb questions, only dumb silences. You will be evaluated not only how often you contribute to group and class discussions but also on the quality of your contributions. Additionally, your preparedness and clarity are critically important to not only your course grade but your understanding of the material as well.

### *Format for Assignments*

All external papers must be typed. If you do not have your own computer and/or printer, computer labs and resources are available at the college or at an Internet cafe. Papers must be submitted with a title page including an original title, your name, my name, the course, and the date on which the paper is submitted on the due date, not before and not after. Emailing papers is acceptable, as long as the paper is emailed on the due date. Use a 12 point font with serifs (セリフ) with one-inch (2.5cm) margins on all borders of your text with a 'ragged' right edge. Papers must be double-spaced and pages must be numbered in the center of the page at the bottom. Failure to meet any these guidelines will result in a grade lowered by a full letter (an A becomes a B, etc.) for that assignment.

### *Coursework and Conduct*

- This course demands daily participation. Because we have a short period, we need to start on time and end on time. I expect students to bring the relevant text with notes, to be prepared for presentations, responses, and discussion.
- For each class, expect to read roughly 25 pages, spending 2 – 3 hours in preparation for discussion.
- Active Reading: Active Reading means, among other things, writing in your book. Your use of active reading is the core of understanding, and full engagement with the texts will certainly enhance your grade. The basic techniques of active reading involve:
  - 1) Using the margins to take notes, ask questions, draw diagrams.
  - 2) Underlining important or striking passages.
  - 3) Boxing new terms, characters, or repetition of ideas.
  - 4) Summarizing your response to the work at the end of the text.
  - 5) Jotting down words or references you need to research.