

Osaka Gakuin University 2025-2026 Spring Semester	
Storytelling and Witness in Modern Japanese Literature	
Instructor :	
Yukiko Shigeto E-mail: shigetoyuki@gmail.com Lesson: Tuesdays and Thursdays 13:30-15:15 Subject code : 2057	
Course Description:	
This course explores Japanese literature as a powerful medium for storytelling in the aftermath of both natural and human-made disasters. We will examine what kinds of narratives emerge when familiar frameworks—such as our sense of time, space, and reality—are disrupted, and consider the transformative potential of such storytelling. Additionally, we will focus on the ethical dimensions of listening to, receiving, and retelling these stories. Topics include atomic bomb literature and both fictional and nonfictional responses to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 3.11 triple disaster. In addition to literary texts, we will engage with films to explore how different media shape modes of expression and remembrance.	
Resources	
Lecturer will prepare materials.	
Evaluation	
Attendance and Participation in Class Discussions 30% Midterm Exam 30% Final Presentation 40 %	
Notes:	
The course schedule is subject to minor changes.	

Course Schedule:
Course starts from the week of 1/26
Week 1: Course Overview “The Power of Storytelling”
Week 2: Writing from Ground Zero
Week 3: Atomic Afterlives—Visual and Narrative Testimony (Manga)
Week 4: Objects as Storytellers
Week 5: Storytelling in Akira Kurosawa’s <i>Rhapsody in August</i>
Week 6: The Personal and the Planetary in Post-Earthquake Literature—Haruki Murakami’s <i>After the Quake</i>
Week 7: Midterm Review and Exam
Week 8: Voices from Minamata—Documentary as Witness (Film)
Week 9: Voices from Minamata—Literature as Requiem
Week 10: 3.11 Literature
Week 11: 3.11 Film
Week 12: Ethics of Receiving and Retelling of Stories
Week 13: Final Presentations