

JAPANESE HISTORY AND LITERATURE IN THE MIDDLE PERIOD, 1300-1800 IRP, Spring 2015, Syllabus

Coordinator: Susan Goldman

Week 1:	Introduction
Week 2:	Nō drama
Week 3:	Kyōgen comic theater
Weeks 4-5:	Ihara Saikaku Five Women who Loved Love
Weeks 6:	Basho and other poets
Weeks 7-8:	Chikamatsu Monzaemon Love Suicides of Amijima
Week 9:	Kanadehon Chushingura, translated as The Storehouse of Faithful Retainers or The Forty Seven Ronin
Week 10:	Ueda Akinari Ugetsu Monogatari
Week 11:	Kobayashi Issa The Spring of My Life
Week 12:	Jippensha Ikku, Hizakurige, translated as Shank's Mare
Week 13:	Summing up

The study group will combine lectures on historical background of each period with group discussions of each work of literature. Videos of Japanese performances will be shown in class and participants will be encouraged to give reports on the fine arts.

As New York provides many opportunities to learn about Japanese art and culture, museum visits and possibly attendance at theatrical performances will be recommended, subject to what is available in Spring 2015.