

Japanese G9040y
Graduate Seminar on Premodern Japanese Literature, Spring 2012:

Myths of Japan II

Thursdays 4:10-6:00pm; 522A Kent Hall

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:00-3:30 and Thurs. 1:30-3:00 in 500A Kent Hall

Course Rationale:

An introduction to Japanese mythology, considering the earliest sources (particularly the eighth century *Kojiki* and *Nihon shoki*) and the reception and transformation of their mythic narratives in the medieval, early modern, and modern periods. The class is intended for PhD. and advanced M.A. students in Japanese literature, history, religion, and related fields. This course focuses loosely on myth sequences centered on the so-called Emperor Jinmu (a previous version, taught in Spring 2011, examined myths of the Izumo region and the Kusanagi sword, and a third installment dealing with ancient songs [*kiki kayō*] is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2013).

Prerequisites:

A grounding in *kanbun* and/or classical Chinese will be enormously helpful, but the only firm prerequisite is a solid command of classical Japanese. Note, though, that this is an advanced graduate seminar with extensive readings in premodern primary sources and also in modern Japanese scholarly works. Students with concerns about their ability to keep up should consult with the instructor before registering for the class. **IMPORTANT:** Although this is the second in a trilogy of seminars, there is no expectation that students will have taken the previous class, nor that they will have extensive prior familiarity with Japanese mythology. However, those who did not take “Myths of Japan I” in Spring 2011 may want to glance over its syllabus to get a sense of what was covered:

<http://www.columbia.edu/~dbl11/Lurie-Myths-2011.pdf>

Additionally, the following items will be valuable for anyone approaching the subject for the first time; it is highly recommended that such students read through as many of these as possible at the beginning of the semester.

- 1) Robert Borgen and Marian Ury, “Readable Japanese Mythology: Selections from *Nihon shoki* and *Kojiki*” (*Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese* 21/1 [1990]:61-97)
- 2) Conrad Schirokauer et al., *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization* (Thomson Wadsworth, 2006), Part I, 1-46
- 3) Edwin Cranston, “Asuka and Nara Culture: Literacy, Literature, and Music” (*Cambridge History of Japan* vol. 1 [1993]), 453-503
- 4) David Lurie, *Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2011), chap. 5, 213-53
- 5) Kōnoshi Takamitsu, “Constructing Imperial Mythology: *Kojiki* and *Nihon shoki*,” trans. Iori Jōkō, in Shirane and Suzuki, *Inventing the Classics: Modernity, National Identity, and Japanese Literature* (Stanford University Press, 2000), 51-67

Requirements:

- 1) Consistent attendance and participation, including in-class reading and translation of sources.
- 2) Occasional presentations on selected secondary sources.
- 3) Due 17 May, a short final project (around 10 pages), topic subject to instructor's approval: an interpretive essay concerning one or more of the *primary sources* considered this semester, or an annotated translation of a passage from one of them or from a reasonably closely connected work.

NOTE: Except in cases of medical or family emergency, no incompletes will be granted for this class.

Course Materials:

As our basic texts for the first half of the semester (and for reference thereafter), we will rely on the *Shinpen Nihon koten bungaku zenshū* (SNKBZ) edition of the *Kojiki* and the *Nihon koten bungaku taikai* (NKBT) edition of the *Nihon shoki*. **For the purposes of this class we will work from the classical Japanese of the *yomikudashi* readings in the assigned editions, making reference to the original character texts only when doing so is particularly called for by interpretive or stylistic considerations.** The assigned editions will be supplemented by other modern commentaries, including the following.¹

Kojiki: *Shinchō Nihon koten shūsei* (SNKS) and *Nihon shisō taikai* (NST)

Nihon shoki: SNKBZ

Throughout the semester students should make a point of consulting the *Jidaibetsu Kokugo daijiten Jōdaihen* and *Jōdai bungaku kenkyū jiten*, and especially the *Nihon shinwa jiten* and *Jōdai setsuwa jiten*. (For more on specialized references, see the introduction to the 2011 syllabus.)

In the following schedule, primary sources appear in boxes: **these will be read and translated in part or completely during class**. ‘*’ designates other required readings; ‘©’ indicates assignments that will be introduced by designated presenters (and that are optional for the rest of the class). Common readings for the entire class will be available on Courseworks; supplementary sources and items to be reported on by presenters will be there or on reserve in Starr Library. Presentations will be limited to *ten minutes* and will: 1) explain who the author of the reading is, 2) summarize its basic arguments, and 3) relate them to that week's primary (and perhaps other secondary) readings. Handouts are not required but are recommended as a way of organizing the presentation and remaining within the time limit.

¹ All of the eighth century works we read this semester are available in English translations, although they vary in quality and suitability for this course. Students should be particularly aware of Donald Philippi's *Kojiki* (1968), W.G. Aston's *Nihongi* (originally 1896), and, for the five extant 'old *Fudoki*', Michiko Aoki's *Records of Wind and Earth* (1997). Edwin Cranston's *Waka Anthology Volume One: The Gem-Glistening Cup* (1993) also contains translations of verse (with prose contexts) from the *Kojiki*, *Nihon shoki*, and *Fudoki*. Electronic texts (of varying provenance and quality) are available for most of our primary sources. See especially the following two bilingual *Nihon shoki* sites:

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/JHTI/Nihon%20shoki.html>

<http://nihonshoki.wikidot.com/>

Schedule:1) 19 Jan. **Introduction**2) 26 Jan. **The Descent of the Heavenly Grandson**

- *Nihon shoki* Book II Section 9 (main text): NKBT 140(line 11)-142(line 10)
- *Kojiki* Book I, descent through marriage: SNKBZ 113(line 7)-123

*Tada Gen, “Tenson kōrin,” *Rekishi dokuhon* (April 2010), 146-151

*Kōnoshi Takamitsu, “Kodai tennō shinwa ron no hōhō,” *Kodai tennō shinwa ron* (Wakakusa shobō, 1999), 10-25

©Saijō Tsutomu, “Ho-no-Ninigi: Bansei ikkei no shinwa-ka,” *Kojiki shinwa no nazo o toku: Kakusareta rimen* (Chūō kōronsha, 2011), 163-192

3) 2 Feb. **The Luck of the Sea and the Luck of the Mountains**

- *Kojiki* Book I, Hiko-hohodemi and Ukaya-fukiaezu: SNKBZ 125-138
- excerpts from *Nihon shoki* Book II Section 10 (from main text and *issho* 2 & 4): NKBT 165(line 5)-166; 174-176(line 1); 182(line 14)-184(line 8)

*Saitō Hideki, “Yamasachibiko/Umisachibiko,” *Rekishi dokuhon* (April 2010), 152-157

*Yoshida Atsuhiko, *Nihon shinwa no genryū* (Kōdansha, 1976), “Naze Nihon shinwa o hikaku suru ka” (11-27); “Hyūga shinwa to Indonেশia” (30-40); “Umisachibiko/Yamasachibiko to Kōnan Chūgoku” (78-92)

*Sakamoto Tarō, *The Six National Histories of Japan* (trans. John Brownlee, UBC Press 1991), chap. 2, “*Nihon shoki*,” 30-89

©Yoshii Iwao, “Umisachi-yamasachi no shinwa to keifu” (1977), in *Tennō no keifu to shinwa* vol. 3 (Hanawa shobō, 1992), 161-187

4) 9 Feb. **Jinmu’s Eastward Journey**

- *Nihon shoki*: NKBT **188-196(line 9)** [beginning through 即位前紀戊午年六月乙未朔丁巳(6/23)]
- *Kojiki*: SNKBZ 141-147

*Taniguchi Masahiro, “Jinmu tōsei,” *Rekishi dokuhon* (April 2010), 158-163

*Yamada Hideo, *Nihon shoki* (Kyōikusha, 1979), “Hanrei” (35-47) and “Kinenron” (66-74)

- ◎Tsuda Sōkichi, “Jinmu tennō tōsen no monogatari,” *Nihon koten no kenkyū*, vol. 1 (Iwanami shoten, 1948), 261-291
- ◎Kuranishi Yūko, “*Nihon shoki wa kōshite kaimei dekiru*,” *Nihon shoki no shinjitsu: Kinenron o toku* (Kōdansha, 2003), 9-42

5) 16 Feb. **Jinmu the Warrior**

•*Nihon shoki*: NKBT **196(line 10)-198(line 15)** [即位前紀戊午年八月甲午朔乙未 (8/2)]; **202(line 13)-210(line 7)** [即位前紀戊午年十月癸巳朔(10/1) through 即位前紀戊午年十二月癸巳朔丙申(12/4)]

•*Kojiki*: SNKBZ 148-157(line 2)

- *Naoki Kōjirō, “Jinmu tennō to kodai kokka,” *Nihon shinwa to kodai kokka* (Kōdansha, 1990), 159-188
- ◎Mishina Shōei, selections from “Jinmu densetsu no keisei,” *Nihon shinwa ron (Mishina shōei ronbunshū* vol. 1; Heibonsha, 1970), 203-369

6) 23 Feb. **Jinmu the Worshipper**

•*Nihon shoki*: NKBT **198(line 16)-202(line 12)** [即位前紀戊午年九月甲子朔戊辰 (9/5)]; **210(line 8)-216** [即位前紀己未年二月壬辰朔辛亥(2/20) to end]

- *Yamazaki Masayuki, *Kiki denshō setsuwa no kenkyū* (Takashina shoten, 1993), “Jindai 人代 to kamigami o megutte” (3-20) and “Ki-denshō 記伝承 no ito o megutte (Jinmu tennōjō)” (21-35)
- ◎Saigō Nobutsuna, “Jinmu tennō,” *Kojiki kenkyū* (Miraisha, 1973), 175-227

7) 1 March **Jinmu, Sujin, and the Miwa God**

•*Kojiki* Jinmu Hoto-tatara-isusuki-hime narrative: SNKBZ 157(line 3)-161(line 2)

•*Kojiki* Sujin Miwa narrative: SNKBZ 183(line 6)-188

•*Nihon shoki* Sujin Yamato-totobimomoso-hime/Hashihaka narrative: NKBT 246(line 10)-248(line 1)

- *Sasaki Takashi, “Miwayama no kami ga misometa bijo,” in *Nihon no shinwa/densetsu o yomu: Koe kara moji e* (Iwanami shoten, 2007), 59-71
- *Taniguchi Masahiro, “Jinmu tennō to Sujin tennō,” *Kokubungaku* (Gakutōsha) 51:1 (Jan. 2006), 50-57

- ◎Masuda Katsumi, “Monogami shūrai,” *Higi no shima* (1976), 179-209

8) 8 March **Consolidating and Supplementing Mythology: *Kogo shūi* and *Sendai kuji hongei***

- *Kogo shūi*, preface and Ninigi through Sujin: Iwanami bunko edition (ed. Nishimiya Kazutami, 1985), 13-14(line 2); 26(line 8)-39(line 2)²
- *Sendai kuji hongei*, selections from Book 3 (天神本紀) and Book 5 (天孫本紀): Ōno Shichizō, *Sendai kuji hongei: Kunchū* (Shin jinbutsu ōraisha, 1989): middle register, 61-65(6 lines from left); 105-106(line 15); 111(6 lines from left)-112(7 lines from left)³

*Akimoto Yoshinori, “*Kogo shūi*: Inbe-shi no kaki,” *Kokubungaku: Kaishaku to kanshō* (1989/3), 49-53

*Mark Teeuwen, “*Sendai kuji hongei*: Authentic Myths or Forged History?,” *Monumenta Nipponica* 62:1 (2007), 87-96

©Kōnoshi Takamitsu, “Ichigenka e no undō,” *Kodai tennō shinwa ron* (Wakakusa shobō, 1999), 272-297⁴

NO CLASS 15 MARCH

9) 22 March **The Sea-God’s Palace in Art and Theater**

- *Hikohohodemi no mikoto emaki: Nihon emaki taisei* vol. 22 and *Zoku Nihon no emaki* vol. 19⁵
- *Tama no i* (by Kanze Nobumitsu [1450-1516]): *Yōkyoku taikan* and SNKBT

*Itō Satoshi, “The Medieval Period: The Kami Merge with Buddhism,” trans. Mark Teeuwen, in *Shinto: A Short History* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), 63-107

*Peter Glum, *The Hikohohodemi no mikoto emaki* (Gesellschaft für Natur-und Völkerkunde Ostasiens, 1988)

©Komine Kazuaki, “Jingi shinkō to Chūsei bungaku,” *Iwanami kōza Nihon bungakushi* vol. 5 (1995), 247-270⁶

² For reference, consult the old English translation of the *Kogo shūi* by Katō and Hoshino (Curzon, 1926).

³ For reference, consult the translation discussed in the Teeuwen review: John Bentley, *The Authenticity of Sendai Kuji Hongi: A New Examination of Texts, with a Translation and Commentary* (E.J. Brill, 2006).

⁴ For a more accessible presentation of the core arguments of this chapter see Kōnoshi’s “Shinwa no ichigenka,” *Kojiki to Nihon shoki: “Tennō shinwa” no rekishi* (Kōdansha, 1999), 164-187

⁵ We will also consult scans and other material from Komatsu Shigemi, *Hikohohodemi no mikoto emaki no kenkyū* (Tōkyō bijutsu, 1974)

⁶ For reference, the following is an approachable introduction worth reading before turning to the Komine piece: Saitō Hideki, *Yomikaerareta Nihon shinwa* (Kōdansha, 2006), 81-138: “Chūsei Nihongi no kyōen”

10) 29 March *Jinnō shōtōki* (1339) and the Medieval Mythology of Origins

•Selection from book 1 of *Jinnō shōtōki*: NKBT edition (1965) pp. 58-69 (see also Mihashi Tokugen, *Jinnō shōtōki chūkai* vol. 1 [Zoku gunsho ruiju kanseikai, 2001], 125-169)

*Paul Varley, *A Chronicle of Gods and Sovereigns: Jinnō Shōtōki of Kitabatake Chikafusa* (Columbia University Press, 1980): read introduction (1-41) and skim entirety of Part 1 (49-121)

*Kate Wildman Nakai, “‘The Age of the Gods’ in Medieval and Early Modern Historiography,” in James Baxter and Joshua Fogel, eds., *Writing Histories in Japan: Texts and Their Transformations from Ancient Times through the Meiji Era* (International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2007), 11-39⁷

©Ōsumi Kazuo, “Kitabatake Chikafusa to *Jinnō shōtōki*,” *Chūsei: Rekishi to bungaku no aida* (Yoshikawa kōbunkan, 1993), 178-190; AND Yamamoto Hiroko, “*Jinnō shōtōki*: Kōi keishō no rinen,” *Kokubungaku: Kaishaku to kanshō* (1989/3), 116-120

NO CLASS 5 APRIL

11) 12 April Arai Hakuseki (1657-1725) and the Reconstruction of a Historical Antiquity

•*Koshitsū* introduction: *Rekishi shisō shū* (*Nihon no shisō* vol. 6, Chikuma shobō, 1972), 233-256

•*Koshitsū* selection: *Arai Hakuseki zenshū*, vol. 3 (Yoshikawa Hanshichi, 1906), 282(bottom register, 5 lines from left)-288

•*Koshitsū wakumon* selections: *zenshū* vol. 3, 376(top register, 4 lines from left)-377(top register, all but last 5 characters) and 379-380(top register line 5)

*Kadoya Atsushi, “Edo de hana-hiraita shinwa saihakken,” *Rekishi dokuhon* (April 2010), 196-201

*Kate Wildman Nakai, “Arguing from History: Reappraisal of the Eternal Sovereignty of the Imperial Line,” *Shogunal Politics: Arai Hakuseki and the Premises of Tokugawa Rule*, chap. 10 (Harvard University Asia Center, 1988), 235-264

©Uete Michiari, “Edo jidai no rekishi ishiki,” in *Rekishi shisō shū* (*Nihon no shisō* vol. 6, Chikuma shobō, 1972), 63-87

⁷ See also Brownlee, John S., “Historical Explanation in *Jinnō Shōtōki* (1339),” *Political Thought in Japanese Historical Writing: From Kojiki (712) to Tokushi Yoron (1712)* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1991), 103-115

12) 19 April **The Tendentious Commentarial Masterpiece of Motoori Norinaga (1730-1801)**

•Selections from *Kojikiden* books 17-20 (*Motoori Norinaga zenshū* vol. 10 [Chikuma shobō, 1968]): 269-274 and 346-365

*Yamashita Hisao, “Motoori Norinaga no Kojiki kenkyū,” in Miura Sukeyuki, ed., *Kojiki o yomu* (Yoshikawa kōbunkan, 2008), 179-195

©Kōnoshi Takamitsu, *Motoori Norinaga Kojikiden o yomu* vol. 2 (Kōdansha, 2011), 181-246

13) 26 April **In the Year 2600: Jinmu as Founder of the Great Japanese Empire**

•Selections from *Kokutai no hongī* (Monbushō, 1937): Intro. and Part 1, Chaps. 1-2 (1-32) and Part 2 Chap. 1 (63-84)

*Skim introduction (by Robert K. Hall) and remainder of the text itself: Gauntlett, John Owen, trans., *Kokutai no hongī: Cardinal Principles of the National Entity of Japan* (Harvard University Press, 1949)

*Yonetani Masafumi, “Monbushō-hen *Kokutai no hongī*,” in Kōnoshi Takamitsu, ed. *Kojiki Nihon shoki hikkei* (Gakutōsha, Bessatsu Kokubungaku, 1995), 180

*Walter Edwards, “Forging Tradition for a Holy War: The “Hakkō ichiu” Tower in Miyazaki and Japanese Wartime Ideology,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 29:2 (2003), 289-324

©Chiba Kei, “Kindai Jinmu tennōzō no keisei: Meiji tennō = Jinmu tennō no shinborizumu,” *Kindai gasetsu* 11 (2002), 96-126

©Kenneth Ruoff, *Imperial Japan at its Zenith: The Wartime Celebration of the Empire's 2,600th Anniversary* (Cornell University Press, 2010), Introduction, Chapter 1 (“The National History Boom”) and Chapter 3 (“Imperial Heritage Tourism”): 1-55, 82-105

FINAL PAPER DUE THURSDAY 17 MAY BY 4PM