



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

**Renison University College**  
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo  
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Phone: 519-884-4404 | [uwaterloo.ca/renison](http://uwaterloo.ca/renison)

## **Renison University College Land Acknowledgement**

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach, and is centralized within the work of our Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

## **Fall 2022**

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**Course Code: RS 123/EASIA 120**

**Course Title: Monsters and Magic in Japanese Popular Culture**

***Class Times/Location: Renison 2106, Wednesdays 11:30am-2:20pm***

***Drop-in Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am and by appointment***

## **Course Description**

An examination of the roles played by monsters, magic, and supernatural creatures in Japanese popular culture, with attention to their treatment in Buddhism, Shinto, Daoism, and folk practices. Topics include modern-day creations such as Godzilla and Pokemon and traditional beings such as deities, ghosts, angry spirits, goblins, and shapeshifters.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes - (Upon completion of this course, students should be able to)**

- A. Identify various kinds of Japanese supernatural entities and religio-magical systems
  - Recognize major categories of non-human creatures, identify specific examples of different types of monsters, and understand how they relate to Japanese religion and superstition
  - Recognize elements of different Japanese religious traditions and how they are used to acquire power over dangerous forces
  - Note evolving images, personalities, and uses of non-human characters across time, media formats, and commercial productions
- B. Critically analyze Japanese popular culture media productions, such as manga and films
  - Apply analytical themes and tools provided in class
  - Apply knowledge gained from readings and discussions
  - Analyze the archetypal roles of monsters in producing, policing, and challenging cultural and religious mores

**A Note About Content:** Films, books, and other media that we will view or read for this course contain a wide range of content, including things that may make students uncomfortable or upset. This may include physical or sexual violence, discrimination, sexuality or nudity, religious or cultural views at variance with your own, frightening images and events, and other potentially disturbing content. Please speak with the instructor if you wish to receive more information about particular types of content.

**Required Texts**

All three books have been placed on reserve at the Renison library. Students may wish to purchase copies for their own use.

- Japanese Tales, by Royall Tyler  
NOTE: this title is difficult to obtain in print, so it is best to buy an electronic copy, such as for Kindle (via Amazon), if you want one. TWO copies of Japanese Tales have been placed on reserve at the Renison library.
- The Birth of Kitaro, by Shigeru Mizuki
- Kwaidan, by Lafcadio Hearn

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Self-introduction	September 18	1%
Discussions	Weekly throughout the term	44%
Paper 1	October 3	5%
Paper 2	November 7	15%
Final exam	To be scheduled (Dec 9-23)	35%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### *Self-introduction*

Introduce yourself to the class in the Learn discussion forums. Further instructions are provided in the Forum.

### *Discussions*

The course Learn site has discussion forums for weeks 2-12. In insightful and detailed posts, the students will respond each week to both of the two regular discussion topics. Students will also read the posts of their classmates, and provide thoughtful responses (minimum two replies in each of the two regular discussion forums per week). Posts and replies should ideally be completed within six days of the end of each class. For further information, see the Discussions instructions document on Learn.

### *Paper 1*

An approximately 2-3 page paper. For details, see the Paper 1 instructions document on Learn.

### *Paper 2*

An approximately 5 page paper. For details, see the Paper 2 instructions document on Learn.

### *Final exam*

Details about the final exam will be provided in class.

## Course Outline

Readings should be completed before the start of class each week. The list indicates the stories students should read, NOT the page numbers. I.e., for September 18 students should read story #26 (among others) in Japanese Tales, which is found on pages 34-36. JT = Japanese Tales; KW = Kwaidan.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Sept 6 – 9	Introduction	No readings
2	Sept 12 – 16	Magicians and Monster Fighters	JT: 26, 49-51, 53, 59-63, 72-73, 85-88, 127-128, 163-165, 168
3	Sept 19 – 23	Demonic Revenge	JT: 13-14, 97, 111, 125, 170, 203, 218
4	Sept 26 – 30	Spooky Stories	JT: 133 KW: Mimi-Nashi-Hoichi, Yuki Onna, Oshi Dori, O-Tei, Jikininki, Rokuro-Kubi, Riki-Baka
5	Oct 3 – 7	Yokai	The Birth of Kitaro (all)
	Oct 10	Thanksgiving	
	Oct 11 – 14	Reading Week	
6	Oct 17 – 21	Shapeshifters and Tricksters	JT: 33-34, 74, 80-81, 84, 118-124, 202, 204-208 KW: Mujina
7	Oct 24 – 28	Classic Ghosts	JT: 27, 134, 161, 190-191
8	Oct 31 – Nov 4	Modern Ghosts	JT: 11-12, 15-16, 132, 192-194, 166
9	Nov 7 – 11	Monsters of the Scientific Age	JT: 77, 98, 148, 200
10	Nov 14 – 18	Monsters of the Digital Age	JT: 101, 146, 187
11	Nov 21 – 25	Crossing Over, Crossing Back	JT: 4, 29, 35-36, 82, 106, 162, 183-184, 201 KW: The Dream of Akinosuke, Horai
12	Nov 28 – Dec 2	Old and New	JT: 2-3, 70-71, 91 KW: A Dead Secret, Jiu-Roku-Zakura, Of a Mirror and a Bell, Diplomacy, Ubazakura
13	Dec 5 – 6	None (no class)	No readings

### Late or Incomplete Work

Other than the final exam, there are two primary forms of assessments in this course: student forum posts and papers. Student forum posts need to be made in a timely fashion so that your classmates can read and respond to them. For papers, on the other hand, we are mostly using guidelines, rather than deadlines, out of recognition that life is often bumpy and we can't anticipate every obstacle that may interfere with our work. As much as possible, please complete and submit your papers by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. It's acceptable to go past those dates a little, but please be in contact with the instructor to discuss the situation. It is possible that late penalties may be enacted in certain cases. There are no make-up assignments for missed assignments in this course. Students who require an

extension should speak to the instructor before an assignment is due and provide a rationale for the extension. The instructor reserves the right to grant or not grant the extension. Should a student miss an assignment, a medical note or verifiable information must be provided when appropriate. Please see the University Policies page for more information on Submission Times and Accommodation Due to Illness.

### **Coursework Submission Policy**

All work (other than the final exam) must be submitted via Learn. A cumulative total of 50% marks is necessary to pass the course with credit.

### **Cross-listed course:**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, EASIA 120/RS 123 cross-list will count in an EASIA minor average, even if the course was taken under the Religious Studies rubric.

### **Policy on Plagiarism**

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”...

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available at [uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory](http://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory) Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students’ submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g.,

scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Students who choose to use electronic devices to support their learning may do so provided that the individuals in the class are not disturbed or prohibited from their own learning. Electronic devices should be used for the purposes of supplementing the learning experience and focus on topics being discussed in class. Phones should be kept on silent during the class.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is taken but not marked in this course. Please try to attend as much as possible, as this greatly impacts your learning. It is acceptable to miss class due to health issues or other reasonable situations. Please discuss any absences with the instructor, as this is the best way to receive support.

### **Communication Policy**

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Please note that once you have successfully completed this course, we may email you about subsequent courses in this subject offered in future terms. If you do not want to be notified about subsequent courses, please email [cls@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cls@uwaterloo.ca) .

### **Final Examination Policy**

For **Fall 2022**, the established examination period is **December 9-23**. The schedule is available in early October. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. See the [Final Examination Schedule at uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations](https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations)

### **Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See [www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

### **Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities**

**Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage at [uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity) and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage at [uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour](http://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity website at [uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor or academic advisor. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the Department’s administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a

ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** The website can be found at [uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

[AccessAbility Services](#) is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

### **Intellectual Property**

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.



## On Campus

- [Counselling Services](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca): counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4096
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- [Health Services](#) – Student Medical Clinic: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

## Off Campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Email: [ok2bme@kwcounselling.com](mailto:ok2bme@kwcounselling.com) Phone: 519-884-0000

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

## **A Respectful Living and Learning Environment for All**

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email ([mnknox@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mnknox@uwaterloo.ca)) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison's [Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse](#) policy.