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Survey of Japanese Literature in Translation

The course is designed as a broad survey of classical through modern Japanese literature. Through various readings of the literature, we examine some of the cultural, historical, political, and aesthetic contexts for this literature, and confront several questions about these contexts, including definitions (and their consequences) of national identity, gender, modernism, spiritualism, nature, power, and more. Time constraints allow for no more than a sampling of Japanese literature, but a varied and rich sampling.