

Schedule for the class “Beauty in Japanese Thought”

Prof. Joseph N. Rostinsky, (Ph.D. Brown University, M.A. Harvard University); Professor Emeritus Tokai University, Tokyo. (Room: G23)

- 1.-2. The Concepts of Beauty and Thought in the Context of Cognitive Semiotics (A Case Study of Japan).
- 3.-4. Mishima Yukio: Golden Pavilion (金閣寺) and Yukio Mishima on Hagakure (葉隠れ): The Samurai Ethic and Modern Japan.
- 5.-6. Miyamoto Musashi: The Book of Five Rings. The Influence of Zen Buddhism on the Japanese Arts (No and Kabuki Theaters, Tea Ceremony, etc.).
- 7.-8. Junichiro Tanizaki: In Praise of Shadows. European and American Fin de Siecle (Japanism in the Arts and Architecture: Alfonse Mucha, Frank Lloyd Wright et al.) within the Context of the Christian Influence.
- 9.-10. Natsume Soseki's Kokoro (こころ), Theory of Literature, and Other Writings (The Grass Pillow). Japanese Thought and European Framework.
11. The Paradox of Beauty in Japanese Thought: A Modern Perspective and Survival of Traditions: Shintoism, Buddhism, and Christianity in the Present Society.
12. Japanese Ghosts (e.g., Zashikiwarashi), Spirits, and Folklore.
- 13.-14. Discussions on the Theme: Beauty in Japanese Thought. Assignments.
- 15.-16. Evaluation and Suggestions.

Internet Information:

Kabuki: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLFK9uQihWA

Wabi-Sabi: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmHLYhxYVjA

Ihara Saikaku: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCCJsMAKv7Q

Samurai: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdvdrUNgMA

Basho Matsuo: www.youtube.com/watch?v=90-2Dg2Cjdw

Secondary Literature:

Barthes, Roland: Empire of Signs (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982)

Nathan, John: Mishima. A Biography (Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1987)

Suzuki, Daisetz T.: Zen and Japanese Culture (Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1988)

Davis, F. Hadland: Myths and Legends of Japan (London: G. G. Harrap, 1920)