

**Japanese 4042: Advanced Topic Course**  
**Japanese Ghost Stories**  
**University of North Texas --- Fall 2025**

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**Welcome to JAPN 4042**

**Class Hour: 11-12:20 on Tuesdays  
and Thursdays**  
**Classroom: Lang 205**  
**Office Hour: 8:20-9:20 am on Tuesdays  
and Thursdays or by appointment**

**Welcome to JAPN 4042!**

**Course Description & Objectives:**

In this course, we will read and analyze Japanese ghost stories through the ages to explore Japanese cultural and religious beliefs. We will examine how Shinto-inspired animism and folk beliefs are reflected in stories of yōkai, obake, and yūrei, and how these supernatural elements reveal values, fears, and ideas about life and death in Japanese culture. In addition, we will study how words, phrases, and sentences are used in context to improve language awareness and sensitivity. Reading materials, video clips, and movies will be used in class, and students will create their own ghost stories in Japanese during the semester.

The Prerequisite is: Completion of three 3000-level courses with a grade of C or better, or consent of the department.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze Japanese ghost stories to understand how yōkai, obake, and yūrei explain supernatural phenomena.
- Explore how Japanese cultural beliefs, including animism, perceive physical objects as having spirits and view the dead as retaining a spirit or soul.
- Examine how words, phrases, and sentences are used in context to improve Japanese language awareness and sensitivity.
- Create original ghost stories in Japanese.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Explain the role of yōkai, obake, and yūrei in Japanese literature and folklore as explanations for supernatural phenomena.
- Describe how animism and beliefs about the dead influence Japanese perspectives on the world, including the idea that objects and spirits coexist with humans.
- Apply contextual knowledge of Japanese grammar and vocabulary in reading, writing, and storytelling.
- Produce an original Japanese ghost story in Japanese that reflects comprehension of supernatural

themes, animism, and language use.

**Class materials:**

- Reading materials, video clips and movies on Canvas

**Grading Scales:**

Homework assignments (18-3lowest times)	300
Quizzes (12-2 times times)	200
Presentations (4 times)	200
Writing(5 times)	200
Paper	100

900 – 1000% =	800 – 899%	700 – 799%	600 – 699%	599% or below
A	= B	= C	= D	= F

- Eight or more absences will result in an F grade.
- Save unauthorized or unexcused absences for days when you are truly sick.
- There is no final exam.
- Failure to submit your paper will result in an F grade.

November 7 is the last day to drop the course. If you submit your drop paperwork by this date, you will receive a W or WF on your transcript, which will not be calculated into your GPA.

**Homework assignments (18–3 times):** Read the materials and complete the comprehension sheets before class. While it is acceptable to revise them during class, they must be submitted by the end of the class.

**Quizzes (12–2 times):** Vocabulary quizzes will be given once a week. Study sheets for the quizzes will be provided in class.

**Presentations (4 times):** Three presentations will be done in pairs. You and your classmate will create a ghost story and present it to the class. For the final presentation, you will present your idea for your paper by analyzing one ghost story of your choice and comparing it with the three types of ghosts covered in class.

**Paper Requirement:** Your final paper will expand on this analysis, using the selected ghost story to discuss how it relates to the three types of ghosts studied in class in Japanese.

**Week schedule**

1 <sup>st</sup> week	Class introduction, Reading 1, pp1-3
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	Reading 1 pp4-6. pp7-9, quiz1
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	Reading 1 pp11-12, 16-17, quiz 2
4 <sup>th</sup> week	Pp20-21, making a story in pair, quiz3
5 <sup>th</sup> week	Presentation, Reading 2 pp1-2
6 <sup>th</sup> week	Reading 2 pp3-4, p5
7 <sup>th</sup> week	Reading2 pp6-7, pp8-9 quiz 5
8 week	Reading 10-11, making a story in pair, quiz 6

9 week	Presentation , watch a movie
10 week	Reading 3 pp 1-2, quiz 7
11 week	Reading 3 pp 3-4, quiz 8
12 week	Reading 3 pp5-6, quiz 9
13 week	Presentation, Quiz 10
14 week	Quiz 11
15 week	Presentation Review, quiz 12

#### **ADA Accommodation Statement:**

The most current statement regarding disability accommodation is provided on the ODA website <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/faculty/faculty-guide/syllabus-statement.html> (copied below as of 08/07/2025):

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student's specific needs in a course. Students may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding their accommodation during office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website.

#### **Guidelines on Resolving Student Concerns in the WLLC Department:**

When a student has a course-related concern about their instructor (e.g., appeal a grade, disagreement about attendance record, interpretation of a class assignment, assigned grades, etc.), the following steps should be taken to resolve the issue:

1. The student should first attempt to informally resolve their concern by speaking directly with their instructor.
2. If there is no satisfactory resolution to their concern, the student should email a description of the issue to Dr. Christoph Weber, chair of the WLLC department ([christoph.weber@unt.edu](mailto:christoph.weber@unt.edu)).
3. The department chair will contact the assistant/associate chair of the WLLC department. They will meet with the student and instructor separately to resolve the issue.
4. The department chair will inform the student about the resolution of their concern.

#### **Guidelines on Grade Appeals in the WLLC Department:**

Students should attempt to resolve the grade dispute with their instructor first. If there is no satisfactory resolution, the student can initiate a grade appeal with the instructor based on the following criteria:

1. The grade is based on unfair treatment during the regularly scheduled class period.
2. The instructor deviated from the guidelines outlined in the course syllabus without providing a valid academic reason, or
3. An error occurred in calculating the grade, including the failure to factor in an assignment, project, quiz, or examination.

**UNT CARE Team:**

The mission of the [CARE Team](#) is to:

- Assist in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the students and members of the UNT community.
- Support student success.
- Provide a comprehensive response to students whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. The calendar is subject to change. Additional details can be found in the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy.

Course Evaluation:

The Student Evaluation, SPOT, will be available at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on this class. The SPOT is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT, and responses are used by the department in evaluating the faculty. We work to continually improve our courses, so we appreciate your feedback!

**Mission of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures:** Representing many world languages, literatures and cultures, our dedicated faculty promote excellence in research, teaching and professional service. Committed to cultural diversity and inclusivity, we teach our undergraduate and graduate students communication, critical thinking and research skills for competitive employment around the world.

**Vision:** We strive to establish a reputation both nationally and internationally in research, teaching and professional service. Seeking harmony in diversity, we foster global literacy, responsible citizenship and interdisciplinarity.

**Japanese National Honor Society:**

UNT has a chapter of the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS). The mission of the society is to recognize our outstanding students and encourage their scholastic achievement and excellence in the study of Japanese language. In addition, we aim to promote ways for students to use Japanese on campus and in the community. Certificates of Excellence and red-and-white cords to wear at graduation will be given to students who are granted membership in the society.

Criteria for JNHS membership:

- Completion of 5 semester courses of Japanese language study at the college level <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- GPA of 3.5 in Japanese language courses
- Overall GPA of 3.0