

Tuesdays

**2 – 4:50 PM
IN
RTFP 264**



SAILOR MOON
NAOKO TAKEUCHI



GUNDAM WING
YOSHIYUKI TOMINO



STUDIO GHIBLI
HAYAO MIYAZAKI

ANIME & OTAKU CULTURE



Course Description

This course is an introduction to Japanese anime and manga as a cultural form to be analyzed and critiqued as we would traditional expressions of art; to better understand Japanese culture and the American subculture that has developed around it. Along with looking at anime in a cultural context, this course will focus on anime fandom in the U.S.

“Yet, even amidst the hatred and carnage, life is still worth living. It is possible for wonderful encounters and beautiful things to exist.”

Hayao Miyazaki

Anime came to U.S. television as early as 1964 with *Astro Boy* and *Kimba the White Lion* and has steadily increased in popularity. By the 1980s syndication in the US either via broadcast television or more likely home video became the norm; and in 1998 anime had its own cable network. Along with the mainstream adoption of anime in the US, underground networks of fans created unofficial streams of fan-sub (fan subtitled translations of anime) streamed over the Internet to American audiences. These audiences create various fan-works from cosplay to anime music videos to fan parodies. These fan works are showcased in fan conventions.

The cultural significance and impact of Japanese anime on American culture can be felt in franchises like *Transformers*, in the popularity of fan behaviors like cosplay (costume play), and in Disney's mainstream distribution of Studio Ghibli's films like *Spirited Away* and *Princess Mononoke*.

Course Objectives

- Gain insight into the history and culture of anime in Japan and the US.
- Explore anime specific genres and fanworks
- Establish a reflective writing practice
- Improve and enhance analytic writing skills.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this class. All required readings are found on Canvas as excerpts and journal articles. However, *Fandom Unbound: Otaku Culture in a Connected World* by Mizuko Ito, et al. is a recommended text. All screenings will be in class, or available streaming for free, or via the library as DVD.

Grading

Attendance	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Presentation Responses	10%
Essays	30%
AMV Project	15%
Otaku Reflection	15%

About Me!



Dr. Tanya D. Zuk

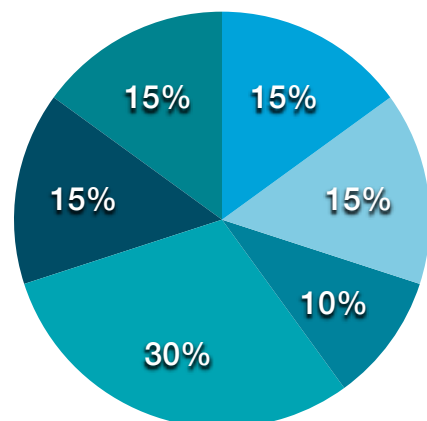
Email:

tanya.zuk@unt.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 9-11, Wednesdays 2-5 and by appointment on Fridays

Office: RTFP 266

Interests: Fandom Studies, LGBTQ+ media, Comic Art Studies, Television, Japanese Anime, Gothic Genre, Cultural Studies



Final Project

AMV

For the final in this class you will be embracing your inner otaku to create an AMV project. This project can be a traditional anime music video, it can be a remixed trailer, it can be a cosplay music video, abridged video or other parody types, a trailer for a fanfic or an AU, etc. You can work individually or in teams. Regardless, your project should be between 90 sec and 3 minutes long and safe for work/class as it will be viewed as part of our last class session.

Otaku Reflection

This is the written portion of your final. Here you will tell me about your process of creating your AMV project. For instance, what anime(s) did you choose to use? Which type of video did you create and why? Music selection?

You'll also explain how your experience as a fan of anime informed your understanding of course content and the creation of your project. For example, did any of these lead you towards your specific anime selection, fanvid genre, or themes? If so, how? How has learning more about anime allowed you to be a more critical fan and creator?

You are required to utilize at least 3 readings from the class and your essay should be 1000-1200 words.

Assignments

Group Presentation

You will sign up for a group for one of the weekly themes. The group, having read ahead that theme's reading, will pick an anime not discussed in that reading, but that relates to it, and present it to the class. Your presentation should provide information about the anime's production info, artistic style, themes, and historical/cultural importance. You should include a 5-10 minute clip from the anime in your presentation. Your group should also develop a short answer question that connects to a concept from the reading to share with the class.

The group presentation materials are due the night BEFORE the class presentation. This is so that I can review the materials for accuracy and to make any necessary modifications to the essay question before class the next day.

Presentation Responses

Each class session with a presentation you will be asked to do a short writing assignment where you connect an in-class screening to course readings. You are expected to refer to the reading and the example in your response. You should bring/have available the reading for use in class. You can use paper and pen or a device of your choice to complete these assignments. If you have an accommodation, it will be reflected in the drop-box on Canvas and we can discuss how this will function after our first class-session.

Essays

For each major module of the class there will be a choice of essay prompt for you to showcase your knowledge on the topic. For each essay you are required to utilize at least 3 readings from the module to support your response. Your essay should be completed entirely by you (no AI or ChatGPT allowed). It should be 1000-1200 words (or 3.5-4 pages double spaced). You should use MLA or APA citation throughout (pick one and stick with it). You can include pictures or illustrations, but they do not count towards page length.

Course Policies

It is in the best interests of you as an individual and us as a classroom to create a positive, inclusive, classroom environment. One of the greatest challenges as an instructor is to provide an engaging, entertaining, and intellectual classroom experience. I need your collaboration to create the best educational experience for all involved. By participating in class discussion, being respectful of others opinions, and preparing for class we can all work together to create a creative and dynamic experience.

Accommodation Statement

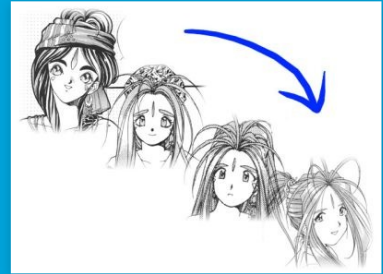
I endeavor to make this class accessible to every student and will do my best to make this class fit your needs. If you need special arrangements for a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access. If you would like to share pertinent medical information, request special arrangements for class seating, or need special assistance in the event of a building evacuation, please contact me in the first week of class. I am happy to alter content formats and provide multiple points of access to course materials.

Assignments and Late Paper Policy All assignments will be turned in using Canvas, unless specifically noted. Late submissions will be accepted, with each day late incurring a half letter grade reduction. I do provide extensions for deadlines upon request.

Appeals If you wish to appeal a grade: within a week of getting your assignment back you must hand in, along with the assignment you want re-graded, a typed one page paper explaining why you believe your grade was incorrect and should be regraded. I will respond in writing within a week. Please note, that re-grading does NOT guarantee a better grade.

Subject to Change Statement: Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade scale, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. All readings, screenings, and papers should be done before that day's meeting in preparation for class.

Revision Policy



I have a long-standing, open, revise and resubmit policy for all my classes. I firmly believe that students are more likely to review and use feedback if they can apply it immediately. Therefore, you can revise assignments during the semester using the feedback provided and resubmit for an improved grade.

You can revise all written assignments (assuming that they are turned in on time). But not quizzes or exams.

To complete the revise/resubmit, just re-submit the assignment in its original dropbox. If it's not open, please email me. Last call for revise & resubmit is our last class session.

Resources

Basic Needs & Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in this course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. For immediate food assistance, visit [UNT Food Pantry](#). For emergency housing needs, visit [here](#) or [Cloud 9 Charities](#). There are additional [Wellbeing and Safety Services](#) through [Student Affairs](#). If you are comfortable, please let me know what is going on. I am ready and able to make course accommodations based on your circumstances, and assist in providing resources.

UNT Writing Center

There are several small papers, as well as a final project required in this class. You may find over the course of the semester, that you want help revising your work. You can sign-up for a session at: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu>. I've used writing assistance throughout my academic career. No one gets citations or grammar naturally. Use every resource at your disposal!

Media Library

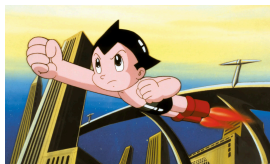
The [Media Library](#) contains the UNT Libraries' non-print, audiovisual, tabletop games, and video games collections. The Media Library also has [The Nest](#), which is an e-sports and game design space. There is also [The Spark](#) makerspace with tools and equipment to loan. The mission of the UNT Media Library is to support the instructional and research needs of UNT faculty, staff, and students by collecting, maintaining, and providing access to media materials that represent all academic disciplines and all genres of film.

Adobe Creative Cloud for Students

UNT offers a yearly [student subscription](#) to the Adobe Creative Cloud suite for \$50 a year. This is a generous discount and is a great option for students whose work involves post-production. You can also use the Media Arts Labs to work on editing projects for free.



DRAGON BALL Z
AKIRA TORIYAMA



ASTROBOY
OSAMU TEZUKA



LAID BACK CAMP
YOSHIKI KYOGOKU



TOKYO GODFATHERS
SATOSHI KON

Schedule

Readings will be listed as author, "title". All readings are available via Canvas and should be read prior to the start of class the day assigned. Assignments will be in **bolded in blue**. Screenings will be in class unless otherwise noted. Remember presentations are due the night *before* you present.

Topic	Reading	Screening
History & Auteurs		
Intro to Anime 8/19	Make sure to review the syllabus and do the class survey!	<i>Read of Die</i> (OVA)
A Very Brief History of Anime 8/26	Poitras, "Contemporary Anime in Japanese Pop Culture"	
Osamu Tezuka 9/2	Gibson, "Out of Death, an Atomic Consecration to Life"	"The Birth of Astro Boy" <i>Astro Boy</i>
Hayao Miyazaki 9/16	TBD	Class Choice
Satoshi Kon 9/23	Osmond, "Kon on Kon" or "Tokyo godfathers: a Christmas story"	<i>Tokyo Godfathers</i> or <i>Millenium Actress</i>
Essay I Due Fri. 9/26		
Japanese Genres		
Mecha 9/30	Dominguez, "Mechapocalypse: Tracing Gundam's Global Appeal and Fandom"	"5 Gundams Confirmed" <i>Gundam Wing</i>
Mahou Shoujo 10/7	Drazen, "Sailor Moon Phenemenon"	"Usagi" <i>Sailor Moon Crystal</i>
	Final Project Proposal Due Midnight	"The Rose Bride" <i>Revolutionary Girl Utena</i>
Isekai 10/14	Price, "A Survey of the Story Elements of Isekai Manga"	"The World of Swords" <i>Swords Arts Online</i>
Iyashikei 10/21	Ren, "An Analysis of Iyashikei Films..."	"A Night on the Lake Shore and Campers" <i>Laid Back Camp</i>
	Essay II Due Fri. 10/24	"Fortune Teller Veiled in Cherry Blossoms" <i>Flying Witch</i>
Otaku Culture		
Otaku in Japan 10/28	Eng, "Discovering, Defining, and Describing Otaku Culture in the US"	Class Choice

Topic	Reading	Screening
Transcultural Otaku 11/4	Hills, "Transcultural Otaku"	"Secret of the Dragon Ball" <i>Dragon Ball</i> "Reunions" <i>Dragon Ball Z</i>
Cosplay & Cons 11/11	Okabe, "Cosplay, Learning and Cultural Practice"	<i>Cosplay Universe</i>
Fujoshi 11/18	Okabe & Ishida, "Making Fujoshi Identity Visible and Invisible" Essay III Due Fri. 11/21	"The Cup of China Free Skate" <i>Yuri On Ice!</i>
Thanksgiving Break		
AMVs 12/2	Ito, "Popularity, Distinction, and Status in the AMV Subculture" AMV Due at Start of Class	AMV Showcase

Otaku Reflection is due by *midnight* on **Friday, December 5th**.

There are no late submissions for this assignment.

No exceptions.