

# JAPN 3170: Anime and Popular Culture

Course: JAPN 3170  
Instructor: Jordan Bledsoe  
Time: 12:30~1:45, MW  
Location: Woodward Hall 254  
Office Hours: 9:30~10:30, WF (others by appointment)  
Contact: jbleds11@uncc.edu  
Textbook: Anime: *A Critical Introduction* by Rayna Denison

## **Evaluation** will be based on:

Paper(s) 55% (20% drafts, 35% final version(s))  
Reading Reports 20%  
Anime Viewing Log 10%  
Consultations (3) 10%  
Presentation (final) 5%  
Attendance: *As per Japanese Division policy for courses that meet twice a week, you will lose 1.5% off your final grade for each absence after the first*

## **Course Objectives:**

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of anime as a category of film. The course will cover anime's unique characteristics, its genres and classifications, key movies/shows and movements, and a brief overview of its history. No prior knowledge of anime or film or the Japanese language is required.

## **About the Instructor:**

I am a husband and father of three kids (Matthew 8, Everett 3, and Liv <1). I am 30yrs old and graduated with a Masters from BYU. I lived in Japan for two years as a Mormon missionary, residing in Kyushu and Okinawa. I have a million video games for a plethora of game systems. My favorite game is Skyrim. I enjoy helping my brother with his canvas tent business ([www.elkmountaintents.com](http://www.elkmountaintents.com)). I like random weird things like abandoned collectible card games from the 90's. My goals for 2017 are: 1) no sweets for a year, and 2) no buying myself anything for a year (excluding necessities, of course).

# Grading Categories

## Papers (55%)

There are three options for course papers. You may choose to write A) one 20pg paper, B) two 10pg papers, or C) three 7pg papers. As a writing-intensive course, these assignments represent a significant portion of your grade – 55% overall (20% will be for initial drafts and 35% for final draft)

Option A) One 20 page paper: Initial draft- 20% of final course grade  
Final paper-35% of final course grade  
Option B) Two 10 page papers: Each initial draft-10% of final course grade  
Each final draft-17.5% of final course grade  
Option C) Three 7 page papers: Each initial draft- 6.66% of final course grade  
Each final draft-11.66% of final course grade

**\*\*See schedule for due dates.**

## **Things to consider before choosing option A, B, or C:**

- 1) The more papers you choose to write, the more feedback you will receive and the better you can anticipate your final grade. In other words, you can get your score for your first paper, recognize changes that you need to make, and then make those changes in future papers. Conversely, choosing option A (with only one paper) means you will receive 55% of your final grade during the last week of class. However, this kind of feedback and anticipation may not be important to you.
- 2) You are required to meet with me to discuss your paper(s) three times over the course of the semester. However, you may meet with me as many times as you like, so regardless of the option you choose, you can receive as much feedback as you want.

- 3) Know yourself. Are you good at writing papers? What's the longest paper you've ever written? How did it go? Are you a procrastinator? Be realistic about your abilities and tendencies.
- 4) Drafts are 20% of your final grade (or 36% of the "Papers" category), so they are a significant chunk of your grade. I do not consider a "draft" to be a bunch of ideas that you throw on paper to fill a quota of pages. In other words, the "draft" you submit should **not** be your first draft. As a general rule, I grade the drafts one full letter grade easier than I would a final draft. So, the equivalent of a B-grade final paper would earn full points for a draft, a C-grade final paper would be a B-grade draft, a D-grade final paper would be a C-grade draft, etc. (The grading criteria is included in the syllabus)
- 5) You are required to have a minimum of 4 sources for a 7pg paper, 6 sources for a 10pg paper, and 12 sources for a 20pg paper.
- 6) You will need to choose an option for the number of papers you will write by the end of the second week of class (Jan 18th). Once chosen, there is no going back... muah hahahaha.

**Initial Draft Grading Criteria (graded on a 10pt scale):**

***Thesis and Thesis Statement***

2.5pts	Your paper contains one thesis/argument. There is a thesis statement in the intro that outlines the direction for the entire paper. <b>The thesis or thesis statement may need to to be tweaked slightly but no drastic changes are needed for the direction of the paper.</b> The rest of the paper supports the thesis.
2pts	The thesis is clear but may need to be narrowed. Or, thesis is clear throughout paper but not defined clearly in the introduction.
1.5pts	The thesis and/or direction of the paper is unclear.

***Paper Structure***

2.5	<u>Introduction</u> is <b>mostly</b> concise and contains a clear thesis as well as a brief overview of your main points and conclusion. <b>Most paragraphs</b> clearly and directly support your thesis. <u>Conclusion</u> effectively wraps up arguments presented in body of paper and how they support the thesis ( <b>for the most part</b> ).
2	Either the Intro, general paragraphs layout, or conclusion needs significant work (2 of 3 are mostly on track)
1.5	Two of three parts need significant work
1	Paper structure needs significant work

***Paragraph Structure***

2.5	<b>Most</b> paragraphs begin with a clear statement that supports the thesis argument. <b>Most</b> of the sentences within the bodies of the paragraphs support (or provide evidence for) the sentence that begin the paragraph. <b>Most</b> paragraphs contain a sentence at the end that wraps up the evidence. Most paragraphs begin with clear transition words when necessary.
2	<b>Many</b> paragraphs have good structure
1.5	<b>Some</b> paragraphs have good structure
1	Paragraphs need significant work

***Length***

2.5	80% or more of the required final paper length
2	70%+ of the required final paper length
1.5	60%+ of the required final paper length
1	50%+ of the required final paper length
0.5	Less than 50% of the required final paper length

**Final Paper Grading Criteria (graded on a 10pt scale)**

***Thesis and Thesis Statement***

2	Your thesis and thesis statement require no editing. They are narrow, clear, and interesting.
1.5	Your paper contains one narrow thesis/argument and a thesis statement in the intro that outlines the direction for the entire paper. The thesis or thesis statement may need to to be tweaked slightly but no drastic changes are needed for the direction of the paper. The rest of the paper supports the thesis.

1	The thesis is clear but may need to be narrowed. Or, the thesis is clear throughout paper but not defined in the introduction.
0.5	The thesis and/or direction of the paper is unclear or confusing.

**Paper Structure (Skeleton)**

2	Introduction is concise and contains a clear thesis statement along with a brief outline of the main points. All paragraphs directly support your thesis.
1.5	<u>Introduction</u> is <b>mostly</b> concise and contains a clear thesis as well as a brief overview of your main points and conclusion. <b>Most paragraphs</b> clearly and directly support your thesis. <u>Conclusion</u> effectively wraps up arguments presented in body of paper and how they support the thesis ( <b>for the most part</b> ).
1	Either the Intro, general paragraphs layout, or conclusion needs significant work (2 of 3 are mostly on track)
0.5	Two of three parts need significant work.
0	Paper structure needs significant work throughout.

**Paragraph Structure**

2	All paragraphs begin with a clear statement that supports the thesis. The body of every paragraph supports the leading statement for the paragraph. When appropriate, paragraphs are concluded or wrapped up with a sentence at the end of the paragraph.
1.5	<b>Most</b> paragraphs begin with a clear statement that supports the thesis argument. <b>Most</b> of the sentences within the bodies of the paragraphs support (or provide evidence for) the one sentence that began the paragraph. <b>Most</b> paragraphs contain a sentence at the end that wraps up the evidence (as opposed to just adding more evidence). Paragraphs begin with clear transition words when necessary.
1	<b>Some</b> paragraphs have good structure
0.5	Paragraphs need significant work

**Length**

2	100% or more of the required final length
1.5	85% or more of the required final length
1	75% or more of the required final length
0.5	65% or more of the required final length*

\*Papers less than 65% of required length will not be accepted. 65% = 4.5/7pg, 6.5/10pg, 13/20pg

**Bibliography**

2 pts	(option A- 12 sources) (option B- 6 sources) (option C- 4 sources)
1 pt	(option A- 8 sources) (option B- 4 sources) (option C- 3 sources)
0.5 pts	(option A- 6 sources) (option B- 3 sources) (option C- 2 sources)
0 pts	(option A- fewer than 6 sources) (option B- fewer than 3 sources) (option C- fewer than 2 sources)

## Reading Reports (20%)

Each day that there is a reading assignment (17 total), you will submit a reading report. These are very simple and should only contain 7 numbered sentences:

- 1) "Today, I read \_\_\_% (in 25% increments) of the assigned reading."
- 2) Something you learned or thought was interesting from the reading
- 3) Something you learned or thought was interesting from the reading
- 4) Something you learned or thought was interesting from the reading
- 5) Discussion Question **related to or inspired by** the reading
- 6) Discussion Question **related to or inspired by** the reading
- 7) Discussion Question **related to or inspired by** the reading

**Grading (10pts)**

Sentence 1: 1pt for each 25% of the reading completed

Sentences 2-4: 1pt for each, graded on completion

Sentences 5-7: 1pt for each. There cannot be a definitive/right/"google-able" answer

*A good discussion question has no right answer but should be open for many answers; it should be a thought-provoking, opinion-oriented question. A discussion question needs to spark conversation and invite people to think. My favorite questions are ones that help you make connections between what we are learning and what you know already. Therefore, "who" and "when" and "where" words generally do not make for acceptable discussion questions. Remember that just because a question begins with "why do you think..." does not necessarily mean that there is no right answer. When in doubt, google your question to see if there are multiple answers.*

You will use your Reading Report throughout the class hour to facilitate forum-style group and class discussion. However, the Reading Report assignment is due at the *start* of class. To prevent cheating (filling out the report during class), a peer will mark a number (1-7) at the top of your paper at the start of class to indicate how many of the 7 sentences are filled out, and then they will sign it. This number is not a score or a grade – just a mark of completion. I will assign a grade based on the criteria above. Anyone caught cheating or facilitating cheating will receive a zero on their reading report for that day. I am also required by University regulation to report any cheating.

The reading for each day is always short. Most days only have 7 or 8 pages of assigned reading. The longest assigned reading for the semester is 16 pages. There are only 168pgs for the entire semester. You may choose to do the reading in advance but the Reading Reports may not be turned in early as we will use these for the group and class discussions. However, if you know that you will be absent, you may submit that report early to avoid the 50% late penalty.

## Anime Viewing Log (10%)

In addition to reading about Anime, you are required to watch it! I want you to keep a record of every anime show or movie that you watch. Your log should include: The date of viewing, the length of time watched, the name of the show, the genre (google it if you need to), and the year the show was first released. If you do not have easy access to anime, the LRC (4<sup>th</sup> floor of COED) and the library both have impressive collections.

There are only 3 requirements: 1) you need 25hrs for full points, 2) you need to have at least 10 different shows/movies on your list, and 3) you need to follow the format mentioned above. Although you are required to include 10 different shows/movies, you only need to watch for 20min to count a show as a new source, so you could watch 10 different shows for 20min each (= 200min, or 3hrs and 20min) and then spend the remaining 21hrs and 40min watching your favorite series.

### Viewing Log Grading Criteria (out of 10)

12	45hrs (+2 to final grade)
11	35hrs (+1 to final grade)
10	25hrs (required amount for full points)
9	22.5
8	20
7	17.5
6	15
5	12.5
4	10
3	7.5
2	5
1	2.5

\* You can lose up to 2 points for not having 10 different shows

\*\* You can lose up to 2 points for having missing information (no date, genre, etc. listed)

## Paper Consultations (10%)

You are required to meet with me three times for 10 minutes to discuss your paper or paper topics. You may choose to meet with me whenever you like during the semester. You are welcome to come in to my office before you have written anything to just discuss ideas or after you have already submitted your draft to discuss the feedback. There are several days on the schedule set aside for these consultations. We will not meet together as a class during these days. There is one consultation day before and after each draft due date for a total of 6 days. However, if you would rather *work* on your paper(s) during those class times you can also come in during my regular office hours. There will be a sign up sheet on Google Docs for the time slots that occur during regular class hours. My regular office hours are walk-in times and require

no appointment. However, you can make an appointment beforehand if you want to secure a time slot. Each consultation is worth 3.33% of your final grade. There is no penalty for rescheduling but you will lose 1% if you miss a meeting without at least an hour's warning (thus getting you 2.33% instead of 3.33%).

## Presentation (Final) (5%)

At the end of the semester, during your assigned final exam time, you will give a 5min PowerPoint presentation on the topic of one of your papers. The scoring is out of 25 points. You will notice that there is less emphasis on the content of the presentation. This is because a significant portion of your grade is already set aside for your paper which is the real content of the presentation.

### Final Presentation Grading Criteria

		Needs	Work	Good	Great
Paper Content/ Organization					
	You present your main thesis clearly	1	2	3	
	You present your key points that support the thesis	1	2	3	
Visual					
	You have a minimum of 10 slides	1	2	3	
	Each of your slides contains at least one image	1	2	3	
	You use bullet points with simple words/phrases (not sentences or paragraphs in bullet points)		1	2	3
Oral Skill					
	You maintain eye contact	1	2	3	
	You use simple, key-word notes (not reading)	1	2	3	
Length	0 pts (less than 3min)	2 pts (3~4min)	3 pts (4~5min)	4 pts (5~10min)	

## Final Exam (Presentation Alternative)

As JAPN 3170 is a writing-intensive course, I don't feel like it also needs to be the class where you develop your presentation giving skills. As an alternative to the final presentation, you may choose to take a paper test final exam. For each day that a *Reading Report* is due, I will introduce 3~5 points that I want you to take away from the reading and discussions of that class day. These points will generally be one or two sentences long. The final exam will test your knowledge of these key points. You only need to memorize the information found specifically in the key points. For example, if a particular key point is just a description of a genre, you will not be asked to provide an example of a film that fits that genre (unless an example is given as a separate key point). You can prepare for the final by writing down the key points throughout the semester and then studying them as we get closer to the final. The test format will be short answer.

## Other Class Policies

### Late Policy

*Assignments are due at the start of class*

**Paper(s):** -10% (full letter grade) off the top for each class day late

**Reading Reports:** -50% for any amount of lateness and will not be accepted after a week.

**Anime Viewing Log:** May instead be turned in on the day of the final exam for -10%

**Consultations:** Each is worth 3.33% of final grade. No-show drops score to 2.33%

### Absence Make-Up/Extra Credit (only 1 make-up/1.5% extra credit is possible)

Attend the UNCC "J. Film Series", see the film and submit a reflection paper written in English, one page

long. This must be submitted within a week of the movie to be considered. You may not watch the movie on your own; you must attend the event for the make-up (or extra credit for those with perfect attendance). There are two J. Film Series events per semester. Each film and reflection combined are worth half of a make-up day (or 0.75% of your final grade)

I do not provide extra credit for club attendance but I do encourage it. Please check out Nihon Club, JAMS (anime club), and the Japanese Speaking Practice Club.

**Class Information via e-mail and Canvas:**

I use email to contact my students frequently. You are responsible to check your UNCC email account regularly. This will help you keep up on what's going on in class. However, I rarely send reminders, so check your schedule regularly too. I also use email to keep you posted on the events conducted in the Japanese Studies, etc. If you are one of those students who for some reason has trouble receiving UNCC emails, then you are required to view the Canvas announcements instead. There is no excuse.

**Noticeboard by the Japanese Studies:**

You can find out about all events conducted by the Japanese Studies, including job opportunities and announcements from student organizations related to the Japanese Studies at the Japanese Studies blog. The URL is:  
<http://unccjapn.blogspot.com>

**Academic Integrity:**

The Department of Languages and Culture Studies complies with the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity (see UNCC Catalogue). It is your responsibility to know and observe the requirements of this code. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that your work is free from academic dishonesty of any type. Penalty for violation of the code ranges from zero credit on the dishonest work to expulsion from UNC Charlotte.

**Learning Disabilities:**

Students with documented disabilities who require accommodations in this class should access services as soon as possible in the UNCC Office of Disability Services in Fretwell Building #230, phone: (704) 687-4355, The URL is:  
<http://www.ds.uncc.edu/StudentServices/>

**Religious Accommodation:**

UNC Charlotte provides reasonable accommodations, including a minimum of two excused absences each academic year, for religious observances required by a student's religious practice or belief. Such reasonable accommodations must be requested in accordance with the procedures in this Policy (submit a request form prior to the census date of each semester), and include the opportunity for the student to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance. The URL is:  
<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-409>  
<http://www.ds.uncc.edu/StudentServices/>

# COURSE SCHEDULE

*Refer to Syllabus for explanation of activities and assignments*

DATE	Topic/Activity	Reading	DUE
01/09/16	Course Introduction		
11	Introduction	Pgs 1~14	<i>Reading Report 1</i>
16 MLK Jr Day	No Class		
18	Introduction continued, Genres and Sub-genres	15~30	<i>Reading Report 2</i> PAPER OPTION MUST BE CHOSEN
23	PAPER CONSULTATIONS (no class)		

25	Sci-Fi, Cyberpunk to Steampunk	31~39	<i>Reading Report 3</i>
30	In-Class FILM VIEWING		
02/01/16	Sci-Fi, Cyberpunk to Steampunk	40~50	<i>Reading Report 4,</i> PAPER 1 DRAFT- (option C students)
6	PAPER CONSULTATIONS (no class)		
8	Anime's Bodies	51~59	<i>Reading Report 5</i>
13	Anime's Bodies	60~68	<i>Reading Report 6,</i> PAPER 1 – (option C students)
15	In-Class FILM VIEWING		
20	Early Anime	69~75	<i>Reading Report 7</i>
22	PAPER CONSULTATIONS		
27	Early Anime	75~84	<i>Reading Report 8</i>
03/01/16	Shojo and Shonen	85~100	<i>Reading Report 9</i>
6 Spring Recess	No Class		
8 Spring Recess	No Class		
13	In-Class FILM VIEWING		
15	Digital Media, Hidden Genres	101~107 (mid- section)	<i>Reading Report 10,</i> PAPER 2 DRAFT- (option C students submit 2 <sup>nd</sup> paper)(option B students submit 1 <sup>st</sup> paper)
20	PAPER CONSULTATIONS (no class)		
22	Digital Media, Hidden Genres, Ghibli	108~124	<i>Reading Report 11</i>
27	In-Class FILM VIEWING		PAPER 2 – (option C students submit 2 <sup>nd</sup> paper) (option B students submit 1 <sup>st</sup> paper)
29	Ghibli	125~132	<i>Reading Report 12</i>
04/03/16	International Anime Fair	133~142	<i>Reading Report 13</i>
5	PAPER CONSULTATIONS (no class)		
10	Horror	142~152	<i>Reading Report 14</i>
12	In-Class FILM VIEWING		
17	Horror	153~160	<i>Reading Report 15 ,</i> PAPER 3 DRAFT- (option C students submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> paper) (option B students submit 2 <sup>nd</sup> paper) (option A students submit paper)
19	PAPER CONSULTATIONS (no class)		
24	Horror	161~168	<i>Reading Report 16</i>
26	Conclusion (possibly a film viewing)		Anime Viewing Log
05/01/16	Conclusion		PAPER 3-

		(option C students submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> paper) (option B students submit 2 <sup>nd</sup> paper) (option A students submit paper)
3	Reading Day (no class)	
4~11 Finals (TBA)		PRESENTATION