

Final paper or creative project--both go here

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Due Monday by 5pm **Points** 25 **Submitting** a file upload
File Types doc and docx **Attempts** 0 **Allowed Attempts** 2
Available May 20 at 12am - Jun 10 at 11:59pm 22 days

Paper topics for JPN 035

Write a 5pp paper (at 250-300w/page) that addresses one of the following 3 topics. Make sure you have a sentence or two that sums up the thesis or question you are pursuing.

1. “The Factory Ship”: Kobayashi’s proletarian novel “The Factory Ship” was an ambitious attempt to link theory and practice—thinking about the world and transforming it, too. Discuss how the critique of capitalism in “The Factory Ship” involves not just seeing the world, but changing it. Spend some time on basic structures—where do you see the critique, where do you see the thinking, where do you see the transforming? (For this essay, you may consult [The Communist Manifesto](#) for a paradigm of revolutionary writing.)
2. “American Hijiki”: Nosaka Akiyuki’s 1967 story depicts the main character Toshio’s memory as the past intrudes into his present everyday life. How does the war and the “occupier within” continue to shape his life and relationships, although Japan has recovered from the war (or forgotten, denied elements of the war) in many ways economically and materially? John Dower’s chapter on “kyodatsu” may also be useful here.
3. “Gourmet Samurai” TV: the paradox of samurai gourmet TV is that it shows a new social role for men while being very nostalgic about the ever-changing city of Tokyo. Using Nancy Stalker’s article, discuss how new social norms are represented in the series [Midnight Diner](#) and [Solitary Gourmet](#) (if you watch other episodes, you can use those as well.) Keep in mind that Stalker also notes that some older forms of masculinity remain unchanged, and sideline the female characters. *Feel free to use screen shots. Put them in your argument where you talk about them, NOT buried at the end. Put a caption underneath each image.

Due date: papers are due at 5pm June 6. (10% is deducted for each late day.)

Format: double-spaced, 1-1.25” margins, in a 12pt font. Your paper should have a title of its own (not “Final Paper”) and each page should be numbered.

Outside sources: are not necessary. The papers are based on class readings and screenings. Papers with unapproved extra research will be marked down 50%. Off-topic papers will not be graded (if you want to write on an independent topic, you must clear it with the TA or prof in advance.)

References: *you will spend some time in Section working on this. Since you will be using class materials, references should be clear, and only page numbers are necessary. By “clear,” it means 2 things: 1) a Works Cited page is not necessary. Spend your time thinking. 2) The source of the claim should be clear—i.e. it should be clear if the text is from “The Factory Ship” or from you. This is relevant when you paraphrase; sometime, you need a sentence to set the scene before you quote/paraphrase. For example, here are 2 typical citations--in blue is the sentence; in purple is the framing:

1) A critique of capitalism drives the narrative of “The Factory Ship.” From the very beginning, the characters describe life on the ship as “hell” (3). It is clear that “hell” is a quote, and the rest is your argument. [The rest of the paragraph=further development of this argument, focused on how the characters observe their conditions, think about them, and change.]

2) The narrator uses graphic language to depict the exploitation of the workers as they are turned into objects themselves. On p. 40, the narrator tells the reader that “[t]he walls of the mines were literally strengthened, layer upon layer, by flesh torn from the workers' bodies like filets of fish.” The image of “filets of fish” _____ [the rest of the paragraph explains how this language works, and what makes it typical of a larger pattern in the story.]

In contrast, plot summary does not require citation. For example,

A) The visit of the entertainers in Chapter 6 provides an external point of view through which the crew members and fishermen can view the exploitation they suffer.

But you can definitely incorporate language from the story to bring your point home. For example:

B) The visit of the entertainers in Chapter 6 provides an external point of view through which the crew members and fishermen can view the exploitation they suffer. As soon as they set foot on the ship, the narrator exclaims “Whew, what a smell!” (50). *Note that the “narrator” here is not the narrator of the entire story, but the entertainer, the benshi narrator who goes on to narrate the films to the crew and fishermen.

Comments: if you wish to have comments on your paper, please include a note to this effect with your email address in the comments section when you turn the paper in.

Rubric (25 points)

- 3 structure and organization
- 3 clear question or thesis
- 7 relevant selection of quotes or screen shots from the materials
- 10 interpretation of quotes or screen shots that support your thesis
- 2 formatting

