

Course number		U-LAS70 10002 SE50				
Course title (and course title in English)	ILAS Seminar-E2 :Robots in Japanese Popular Culture ( 日本の大衆文化のなかのロボット )		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Graduate School of Engineering Professor,DANIELL , Thomas Charles		
	ILAS Seminar-E2 :Robots in Japanese Popular Culture					
Group	Seminars in Liberal Arts and Sciences		Number of credits	2	Number of weekly time blocks	1
Class style	seminar (Face-to-face course)	Year/semesters	2025 ・ First semester		Quota (Freshman)	5 (5)
Target year	Mainly 1st year students	Eligible students	For all majors		Days and periods	Tue.5
Classroom	3D, Yoshida-South Campus Academic Center Bldg. North Wing				Language of instruction	English
Keyword	robot / popular culture					
[Overview and purpose of the course]						
This seminar will look at the image of robots in Japanese popular culture, primarily focusing on the period from Osaka Expo in 1970 until the present day. As well as manga, anime, cinema, and literature, we will look at the origins of Japan's robot culture in karakuri ningyou and contemporary manifestations such as Aibo. We will discuss cultural issues ranging from animism to artificial intelligence, and concepts such as the “ uncanny valley ” effect.						
[Course objectives]						
By the end of this course, students will: Understand the historical development of robots in Japan; Understand the technological and cultural factors that have shaped perceptions; Learn to make a critical response to the assigned readings; Learn to read, write, listen, and speak cogently; Present research findings to an audience.						
[Course schedule and contents)]						
Each week there will be a main text assigned for discussion, led by either the instructor or one of the students. The choice and order of texts may be altered during the semester.						
WK. 01 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ The First Japanese Robot ”						
WK. 02 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ Robots of the Imagination ”						
WK. 03 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ The Toy Robot Kingdom ”						
WK. 04 Discussion text: Yuji Sone, “ Robotics and Representations ”						
WK. 05 Discussion text: Yuji Sone, “ Futuristic Spectacle: Robot Performances at Expos ”						
WK. 06 Discussion text: Yuji Sone, “ The Anthropomorphic Robot and Artistic Expression ”						
WK. 07 Discussion text: Lee Makela, “ From Metropolis to Metoroporisu ”						
WK. 08 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ Designing a World ”						
WK. 09 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ An Interface between Man and Robot ”						
WK. 10 Discussion text: Yuji Sone, “ Robots, Space, and Place ”						
WK. 11 Discussion text: Yuji Sone, “ Robots that ‘ Care ’ ”						
WK. 12 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ Religion and Robots ”						
WK. 13 Discussion text: Frederik L. Schodt, “ Medley of Messages ”						
-----						
Continue to ILAS Seminar-E2 :Robots in Japanese Popular Culture ( 日本の大衆文化のなかのロボット ) (2)						

WK. 14 Review

### **[Course requirements]**

No prior knowledge is required. Students should be able to participate in discussions with their classmates in English. This is a seminar, not a lecture series, so students must complete the readings and be involved in the discussions.

### **[Evaluation methods and policy]**

The course will comprise close readings of critical texts in the fields of robots and popular culture. Each student will be required to lead one session. They must read and understand the assigned text, then prepare and present a summary of their findings to the rest of the students. The presentation should be about 60 minutes, and illustrated with a PowerPoint file. It should be supplemented with additional quotations, images, video clips, and so forth. For the remainder of the class, the student must lead a discussion on the topics raised. The text of the presentation should be submitted in essay format, citing salient reference works, giving footnotes in the APA style, and captions for all images. Grades are based on participation (20 points), presentations (40 points), and submitted assignments (40 points). Students who are absent more than four times will not be credited. Students who submit work that is plagiarized or lacks proper attribution may fail.

### **[Textbooks]**

Frederik L. Schodt 『Inside the Robot Kingdom』 ( Kodansha ) ISBN:978-0870118548

### **[References, etc.]**

( References, etc. )

Yuji Sone 『 Japanese Robot Culture: Performance, Imagination, and Modernity 』 ( Palgrave Macmillan ) ISBN:978-1137532169

### **[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]**

All students are expected to have read the assigned reading(s) before each class.

### **[Other information (office hours, etc.)]**

By appointment.

### **[Essential courses]**