This course is a survey, in English translation, of traditional Japanese dramatic forms. We will focus primarily on four traditions: noh, kyôgen, bunraku, and kabuki. In addition to analyzing the plays as literary texts, we will also consider the stage and performance conventions of each genre.

Secondary readings will include the thoughts of playwrights on writing, and actors on acting. Video screenings will assist in our understanding of how the stage, music, costume, acting, and text come together in performance.

This course has no prerequisites.