

Saitama University

SUMMER PROGRAM 2019

Course Syllabus

P.2 History of Traditional Japan through Film

P.6 Contemporary Visual Art and Design in Asia and Japan

P.7 Japanese Material Culture

P.8 Global Agenda and International Development in the Japanese Perspective

History of Traditional Japan through Film

Friday, Karl

Credit(s) : 2 Tuesday and Thursday 1-2period [F00201]

Designate Class	The purpose of this course is twofold: It seeks first to deepen understanding of Japan's society, culture, and people, prior to the modern era, through analysis of various films, produced by Japanese masters of cinematography. And second, it seeks to give students practical experience in critical analysis, and to deepen their analytical skills and their ability to evaluate evidence, through the use of film as one form of evidence. By reading books and articles, and viewing and analyzing films, we will develop knowledge and perspectives needed for analyzing and better appreciating the relationship between history and films, and develop a better sense of more than a millennium of Japanese history.
Related Courses	Premodern Japanese History; Worlds of the Samurai; The Golden Age of the Heian Court; Gender & Family in Traditional Japan
Prerequisites	None
Theme	<p>How do modern films portray classical, medieval and early modern Japan? How can we "read" these films to deepen our understanding of history?</p> <p>Like newspapers, magazines, novels and other written materials, films offer scholars an interpretation of the society they depict, through the eyes of the writers and directors who create them. Feature films can be used to study both the subjects they narrate, and the societies in which they were created and enjoyed. And while movies cannot be as "true" representations of reality—just like books, articles, diaries, documents or any other source they are interpretations and, as such, must be subject to critical scrutiny—when examined carefully, and in conjunction with other information on the subject, films provide us an invaluable source of information about the societies they portray, and the societies that produce them.</p>
Learning Objectives	<p>In general students will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Read and view primary and secondary sources critically. * Polish skills in critical thinking, including the ability to recognize the difference between opinion and evidence, and the ability to evaluate--and support or refute--arguments effectively. * Write stylistically appropriate and mature essays using processes that include discovering ideas and evidence, organizing that material, and revising, editing, and polishing the finished papers.
Keyword(s)	Japan, history, premodern, ancient, classical, medieval, Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi, Tokugawa, Edo, Sengoku, culture, religion, supernatural, superstition, samurai, warriors, literature, romance, marriage, gender, research, data analysis

Course Overview	The purpose of this course is twofold: It seeks first to deepen understanding of Japan's society, culture, and people, prior to the modern era, through analysis of various films, produced by Japanese masters of cinematography. And second, it seeks to give students practical experience in critical analysis, and to deepen their analytical skills and their ability to evaluate evidence, through the use of film as one form of evidence. By reading books and articles, and viewing and analyzing films, we will develop knowledge and perspectives needed for analyzing and better appreciating the relationship between history and films, and develop a better sense of more than a millennium of Japanese history.
Course Format	Seminar; see syllabus on WebClass for details concerning daily assignments
Weekly Syllabus	<u>Week 1</u> Tuesday: What Are We Doing Here? Introduction & Course Mechanics "Men Who Tread on Tigers' Tails" Thursday: "Genji Monogatari" <u>Week 2</u> Tuesday: "Hidden Fortress" Thursday: "Kwaidan" <u>Week 3</u> Tuesday: "Ran" Thursday: Samurai Rebellion <u>Week 4</u> Tuesday: "Shinjū: Ten no Amijima" ("Double Suicide") Thursday: "Hana"
Grading	<p>► Your most important responsibility for this course is to read the assignments (which provide background for the films), watch the films carefully, and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and the films in depth. This is a colloquium; there will be no lectures. The success of this course depends on the efforts you put into it from class to class. As you watch and read, take notes and jot down questions that will facilitate discussion in class.</p> <p>Class attendance and participation will count for 50% of your final grade</p> <p>► The rest of your grade will be based on one short "think piece" essay about 5-7 pages in length, on a topic of your choice relating to historical issues and interpretations raised in the films.</p> <p>These should be carefully thought out, well organized, and carefully argued statements of your thoughts and opinions on the topic you choose. You may write on individual films, or compare and contrast two or more films. You may write on broad themes or on narrowly focused ones.</p>

(Grading)

There are numerous ways in which you can craft your paper. The key requirement is that it demonstrates familiarity with the film or films, and that it shows informed reflection on the historical themes and issues raised or showcased in the film(s).

Please remember that this is not a film appreciation or film history course, and that your paper is not a film review, critiquing directors, acting, cinematic technique, and the like (although you may raise these subjects, if they are relevant to your discussion of historical issues).

Be sure that your essays show the results of your having done the readings and involved yourself in the discussions compare and contrast the perspectives of the relevant books, articles, and films with each other and with your own. Additional (outside) readings are encouraged but not required.

Your essay is due by Thursday, 7/11 (but can be handed in anytime before this).

Your essay will count for about 50% of your final grade

Grading Standard

Grades will be calculated according to the percentages described above and Saitama University regulations regarding credit assessment.

Textbook(s)

Note : Course readings available on WebClass

Message to Students

How do modern films portray classical, medieval and early modern Japan? How can we “read” these films to deepen our understanding of history?

Like newspapers, magazines, novels and other written materials, films offer scholars an interpretation of the society they depict, through the eyes of the writers and directors who create them. Feature films can be used to study both the subjects they narrate, and the societies in which they were created and enjoyed. And while movies cannot be as “true” representations of reality—just like books, articles, diaries, documents or any other source they are interpretations and, as such, must be subject to critical scrutiny—when examined carefully, and in conjunction with other information on the subject, films provide us an invaluable source of information about the societies they portray, and the societies that produce them.

(Message to Students)

The purpose of this course is twofold: It seeks first to deepen understanding of Japan's society, culture, and people, prior to the modern era, through analysis of various films, produced by Japanese masters of cinematography. And second, it seeks to give students practical experience in critical analysis, and to deepen their analytical skills and their ability to evaluate evidence, through the use of film as one form of evidence. By reading books and articles, and viewing and analyzing films, we will develop knowledge and perspectives needed for analyzing and better appreciating the relationship between history and films, and develop a better sense of more than a millennium of Japanese history.

E-mail

kfriday@mail.saitama-u.ac.jp

Contemporary Visual Art and Design in Asia and Japan

Zara-Papp Zilia

Credit(s) : 2 Monday and Wednesday 1-2period [F00209]

Related Courses	Learning about visual arts and visual expression modes in the modern to contemporary periods in the Asia-Pacific and Japan - choosing individual research topics
Prerequisites	None
Learning Objectives	Exposure to art concepts and art works from diverse regions of Japan, Asia, Australia and Oceania
Keyword(s)	Contemporary Art, Media, Japan, Asia, Australia, Oceania
Course Format	Lecture and presentations. Hand-outs will be prepared, readings will be assigned, individual research to be conducted
Weekly Syllabus	<p>1-2 . Introduction and overview Media theory, art historical concepts and curatorial practices</p> <p>3-4. Japanese influence in Western Art Western influences in Japanese, Asian and Australian Art</p> <p>5-6. Modern and Contemporary Art, Japan and East Asia</p> <p>7-8. Modern and Contemporary Art, China and Central Asia</p> <p>9-10. Modern and Contemporary Design, Japan, Asia and Australia</p> <p>11-12. Modern and Contemporary Media of Japan, Asia and Australia</p> <p>13-14. Student presentations</p> <p>15-16. Presentations, discussions and evaluation</p>
Grading	Evaluation based on student research and presentations
Grading Standard	Evaluation will be based on active class participation (50%), mid-semester presentation and report (50%)
Textbook(s)	Note: Handouts, reading materials and visual materials will be provided in class.
Reference Book(s)	Note: Readings will be assigned based on individual student research
Message to Students	Join the class if you are confident in your ability to interpret diverse texts and sources in English

Japanese Material Culture

Nomura, Nao

Credit(s) : 2 Tuesday and Thursday 3-4period [F00204]

Designate Class	This is a 4-week intensive course for the summer program, which runs from June 11-July 8.
Related Courses	Summer program courses
Prerequisites	<p>Must be enrolled in the summer program or must have the English proficiency of IELTS 6.0/TOEFL 70 or above.</p> <p>There will be two field trips which you must participate in. June 13: Visit to a quilt studio and an old Japanese house turned into a cafe in Nishiogikubo, Tokyo. June 25: Wax food sample workshop at Kappabashi, Tokyo. There will be a 2,300 yen fee. Students are responsible for transportation for the field trips and the workshop fee. Details for the field trips will be discussed in the first class.</p>
Learning Objectives	This course will introduce students to the major themes, issues, methods, and theories relevant to the study of things or material culture. We will look at the variety of ways in which scholars from diverse fields including anthropology, sociology, and history, have sought to infer meaning from things and apply these ideas to the study of Japanese culture and society.
Keyword(s)	Material Culture Studies, Museum Studies, Ethnography
Course Overview	In addition to gaining familiarity with significant literature in material culture studies, students will engage in artifact analysis with particular focus on the ordinary objects that constitute the core of daily life in Japan, such as clothing, food, housing, and popular entertainment.
Course Format	We will explore these topics through in-class discussion and presentation, scholarly writings, material culture analysis, and field trips.
Weekly Syllabus	A detailed syllabus will distributed on the first day of class.
Grading	Evaluation will be based on attendance, participation in discussion, movie review, and a final project.
Grading Standard	Class Participation: 40% Movie Review: 10% Final Project: 50%
Message to Students	Active participation in class discussion is expected and pre-requisite.
E-mail	nnomura@mail.saitama-u.ac.jp

Global Agenda and International Development in the Japanese Perspective

Tsuji, Kazuto

Credit(s) : 1 Monday and Wednesday 5period [SA0002]

Prerequisites	Strong interest in international socio-economic development issues
Theme	Discuss with other participants in English on major issues of international development
Learning Objectives	Enhance a participant's capacity to think over and discuss international development issues in an academic manner
Keyword(s)	Absolute poverty, income disparity, child labor, globalization, food and malnutrition, domestic and international conflicts, media, private businesses, international governance, sustainable development goals
Course Overview	Free discussion including Q&A
Course Format	Think over a topic to be given in advance, present your own opinion verbally in a class, and discuss with other participants for solutions
Weekly Syllabus	<p>The objective of this course is to understand the basic issues of international socio-economic development at present through discussion among students and with the professor. The tentative plan of discussion topics is as follows.</p> <p>Jun.12: Introduction</p> <p>Jun.17: What are the historical or other reasons behind of income disparity between rich and poor countries?</p> <p>Jun.19: What causes child labor in many parts of the world? What are possible measures to eliminate it?</p> <p>Jun.24: What are the merits and demerits of globalization?</p> <p>Jun.26: What should be done to avoid famines and malnutrition on the globe?</p> <p>Jul.1: What causes intra- and inter-nation conflicts? Give examples and counter-measures.</p> <p>Jun.3: Can media be trusted in their reporting international development issues in a balanced manner? Give examples.</p> <p>Jul.4: Final report</p> <p>1)Can private businesses contribute to solving international development issues. Give examples.</p> <p>2)Can international organizations solve international development issues? Give examples.</p>

(Weekly Syllabus)	All participants are expected to prepare his/her opinion on these topics in advance and to make verbal presentation on them in a logical manner. Course grades are given based upon active and constructive participation in the discussion. The professor, Kazuto TSUJI, has 40 year working experience in international socio-economic development with the Japanese Government's foreign aid agencies and resided in Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Kenya.
Grading	class participation and discussion: 80% final report: 20%
Grading Standard	See above
Textbook(s)	None
Reference Book(s)	To be given
Message to Students	I expect constructive and innovative ideas from participants to solve various international development issues.
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