



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

JPNS 317.02-01

**JAPANESE CULTURAL HISTORY THROUGH FILM
(Introduction to Japanese Cinema)**

Tue / Wed / Thu / Fri / Sat

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Kinesiology Block B (KNB) #126

Fall 2017, Block Week (September 5th – 9th)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Ben Whaley

OFFICE LOCATION: Craigie Hall D #425

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment (During Block Week) / Wednesdays, 13:00-15:00 (Regular Fall Term)

NUMBER: (403) 220-3482

E-Mail: benjamin.whaley@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course will broadly introduce Japanese cinema, its styles and history. We begin with excerpts from an early silent film of the 1920s and continue on to masterpieces by Japan's foremost directors from the "Golden Age" of cinema (1950s). We examine "New Wave" cinema amidst the changing social and political landscape of the 1960s, and the rise of globalization and social satire in the comedies of the 1980s. We conclude with contemporary works from the current generation of acclaimed directors (1990s to today). A central focus of inquiry will be on contemporary dramas (*gendaimono*) and how these reflect the social, political, and cultural issues of their time. We will also view and discuss certain filmic genres argued to have originated in Japan (specifically giant monster movies and anime), and consider what defines a "national cinema" and how Japan portrays itself (and how it is imagined abroad) through its film culture. Drawing on assigned readings, we use a number of scholarly approaches in the course, including, but not limited to, film studies, literary analysis, and media studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will have:

- Gained knowledge of and compared a variety of Japanese films, genres, and directors
- Situated these films within their respective social, historical, and cultural context
- Learned the basic history and development of Japanese cinema
- Acquired and practiced methodological tools for the formal analysis of cinema and animation
- Engaged in genre criticism and discussed both Japan's national cinema and its global reception

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

In-Class Group Work	10%
In-Class Scene Analysis	30%
Five Online Quizzes	30%
In-Class Final Exam	30%



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GRADING SCALE

A+ 90–100	A 85–89	A– 80–84
B+ 76–79	B 72–75	B– 68–71
C+ 64–67	C 60–63	C– 55–59
D 50–54	Fail ≤49	

REQUIRED TEXTS

All required readings will be provided on D2L and film screenings will happen during class time. There is no need to buy anything at the bookstore.

COURSE NOTES

All films will be screened during class time and the course will involve mostly in-class assignments:

- Students are naturally expected to come to each class having already read all the **required readings** and prepared to discuss them. Students are expected to stay for the full eight hours.
- **No Make-up Work** will be allowed for any class assignments due to the condensed nature of the course.
- Readings, lecture slides, the syllabus, and quizzes will be posted on **D2L**. You are expected to check the course website regularly. Please make sure the email address registered with U of C is one you check frequently or you may miss out on class announcements!

WARNING(!)

Some of the films we will watch contain potentially disturbing content such as violence and nudity. **If you will be too uncomfortable to view these movies or take part in these discussions, you should not take this course** (if you are under 18, please tell me immediately after the first class). **Students who anticipate missing class meetings or repeatedly arriving late (or leaving early) should not take this course.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.



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3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>



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STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.