University of California, San Diego  
Global Seminars II  
Summer 2016

LTEA 138  
Japanese Films

Tuesday, Wednesday  
Lectures & discussions  
2:00pm-5:00pm

Friday Excursions  
9:00am to 1:00pm

Summer Session II  
August 1 - September 2

Global Seminar  
UCSD

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DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course examines the relationship between culture and technology through the study of Japanese film. While technology is the predominated mode by which we increasingly conduct our everyday lives, it is through cultural processes that technology is also shaped. But is it? In this seminar we study this complex relationship and conceptualize different ways of thinking about film technology and its cultural manifestations through urban life. With the city of Tokyo as a focal point, we study how cinema participates in shaping everyday urban landscape, and how, simultaneously, cultures of design, organizational and industrial operations can impact the way cinema is constructed and institutionalized through daily urban life.

Tokyo is an ideal location for a course on cinematic culture and technology. It is a city rich with history and one of the most technologically advanced urban centers in East Asia. With its numerous museums, we will explore urban cultures and the broader Japanese society while connecting it with global economic and technological processes. Moving outside of Tokyo, cities like Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kyoto serve as ideal places to teach about major technological developments, in particular military ones. Kyoto also can serve as an excellent city to explore the relationship between film, religion and urban life. Known as “the city of thousand temples” and once a capital city of the emperor (from 794-1868), Kyoto’s numerous Zen temples such as Toji, Byodoin, and Daitokuji represent a fascinating example of how Zen Buddhism has and continue to played a critical role in the formation of Japanese modernity in light of dramatic modernization projects since the Meiji period (1868-1912).

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic understanding of culture and technology with an especial focus on everyday life urban processes.
2. To understand how the everyday and local histories can be connected with global cultures and histories.
3. To gain familiarity with non-European civilizations.
4. To gain knowledge of Japanese history and society in the context of contemporary history.
5. To engage in intensive university-level writing and to improve one’s analytical and critical skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Allen Batteau, Technology and Culture, 2009
Ryu Murakami, Almost Transparent Blue, 2003
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

- Writing Assignment: 35%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 35%
- Class participation: 10%

EXAMS:

- The mid-term and the final are in-class exams. Your lecture attendance, participation in sessions and readings should prepare you for the two exams.
- I will provide a study guide for the final exam.
- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and take all exams in order to pass the course.
- Please note that make-up exams maybe allowed only in the case of justified reason for absence.
- The writing exam will be a research paper based on your experiences in excursions. I will expand on this the first day of class.

CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:

Attendance and Participation

Active participation for each week compromises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.

Late Papers

You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.
**Plagiarism**
The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

**Assistance**
In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me or your Section instructor on the first day of class.

**Email**
Please do not check your emails in class! Thank you. But you could certainly email me whenever you want.

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**Schedule for the course**

- Tuesday and Wednesday: 2:00 pm – 5:00pm in class
- Friday – Excursion only day, with August 7 as an exception.
- There will be no scheduled activity on weekends, except August 7

**Excursions**

**List of places to visit:**

The city also offers easy access to palaces, parks, museums such the Tokyo National Museum, Edo-Tokyo Museum, National Museum of Emerging Science, and National Science Museum. City spaces such as Akhihabara (district for electronic and otaku goods) and Ginza (the country's premier shopping center) can help students understand the connection between technology, market and everyday interactions with digital technologies, encoded in Tokyo’s urban landscape.

1. National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
2. Tokyo Institute of Technology
3. Ginza
4. Tokyo Tower
5. Shibuya Crossing
6. Smash Hits, Hiroo Shotengai
7. Robot Restaurant
Schedule of Lectures

August 1-7

August 1, Monday: Orientation

August 2, Tuesday: 20th Century Japanese culture

August 3, Wednesday: Japanese cinema

August 4, Thursday Excursion

Tokyo City Tour
Tokyo Tower
Edo Tokyo Museum

Asakusa Walking tour
Senso-Ji Temple & Asakusa Shrine
Nakamise Dori and Kaminarimon Gate
Sumida River Walk

August 5, Friday Excursion

Hiroshima Excursion (leave Tokyo for Hiroshima)

August 6, Saturday

Hiroshima Excursions:

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
Atomic Bomb Dome Miyajima-Itsukushima Shrine
Hiroshima Peace Message Lantern Floating Ceremony
Okonomi-mura Overnight in Hiroshima
August 7, Sunday

Return to Tokyo

August 8-12

August 9 Tuesday: Japanese cinema

August 10, Wednesday: Japanese cinema

August 11, Thursday: Excursion

Ueno to Nippori Walking Tour

Yanaka Neighborhood

Tokyo National Museum

August 12, Friday: Excursion

Shibuya Crossing  Yoyogi Park

Meiji Shrine Harajuku (Takeshita St.)

Akihabara
August 13, Saturday: Excursion

Depart for Takayama via train
Overnight in Takayama

August 14, Sunday: Excursion

Visit to Samurai House Return to Tokyo
Kanazawa Walking Tour to include:
- 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art
- Kenrokuen
- Nagamachi District
- Myoryuji-Ninja Temple

Return to Tokyo

August 15-19

August 16, Tuesday: Japanese cinema

August 17, Wednesday: Japanese cinema
August 18, Thursday:

Yokohama Day Trip to include:

- Yokohama China Town
- Cup Noodles Museum
- Red Brick Building and Seaside Boardwalk

August 19, Friday:

Ghibli Museum
The National Art Center
Mori Art Tower
21 Design Sight

August 22-26

August 23, Tuesday: Japanese cinema

August 24, Wednesday: Japanese cinema
August 25 & 26, Thursday Excursion: Kyoto (overnight)
Kiyomizu-dera  Nijo Castle  Sannenzaka
and Ninenzaka
Overnight in Kyoto
Matsunosuke ONOE’s Bust Shinnyodo Temple
Movie: Battle of Hnnoji Depart for Tokyo

September 29- September 2

August 30, Tuesday: Japanese cinema

September 1, Wednesday: Japanese cinema

September 2, Thursday Excursion:

Odaiba Island Tour to include:

  • Fuji Television Studios
  • Rainbow Bridge
  • Panasonic Center, a Science and Technology Showroom
  • Miraikan