

KCJS Spring 2017

Japanese Film Culture

Instructor: Yuka KANNO

Office hours: Thursday after class and by appointment

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Class meetings: **Wednesday, 14:55-16:25; 16:40-18:10**

Screenings: TBA

Course Objectives

This course offers an introduction to film and visual culture in Japan by covering a wide range of topics, including women filmmakers, representation of minorities and their communities, as well as local film activities. Our class has a double aim. First we will learn the history, theory, and analytical approaches informed by film studies in order to be able to read the filmic texts accurately. Particularly, we will focus on the issues of gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity, and the ways in which they are expressed in form, content, and style. The second aim is to understand and experience the film culture in national, regional, and local contexts, which require not only film studies but also historical and sociological imagination. Therefore, our goal is to learn how to read the filmic images and narrative, while paying close attention to specific contexts in which these images and narratives are produced and circulated. As cinema plays a critical role in forming identity and social reality both on personal and collective levels, we will make recourse to film and visual culture to understand contemporary social, cultural, and political issues in our daily lives.

Content and Organization

Throughout the course we will learn conceptual frameworks, terminology, and methodology necessary to analyzing film and visual texts. Adding to that, As Kyoto is not only the birthplace of cinema in Japan, but also remains an active site of contemporary film culture and TV production, we will take field trips to local film theatres and events to see how the city reutilizes historical cinematic locales for new film experiences.

Format

The course consists of film screenings, lectures, and discussions based on the assigned readings, all of which will take place on campus. Also, there will be two field trips to cinematic sites.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation (30%)

Two short response papers (10 %×2= 20%)*

Research Paper or Visual Project (50%): due **Friday, April 13, 2018 ****

*The purpose of the short response papers is to evaluate your understanding of key terms and concepts from the readings. You will also be asked to analyze certain scenes from the films based on what you have learned.

** Students can choose either a research paper or a visual project for the grade. The visual project can be a creative video work or visual essay based on a concrete plan. Students need to

submit a plan sheet with the title, summary, and purpose of the project.

- Attendance will be taken at each meeting, and you are asked to engage substantially in class discussion and demonstrate familiarity with the required readings.
- Arriving more than 10 minutes late to class counts as absence. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in an F grade.
- Please turn off all electronic devices (cell phones and laptop computers) during screenings.

Required Readings:

All texts are available on the Courseworks site or Dropbox.

Schedule (subject to change):

January 10

Introduction to Japanese/Kyoto Film Culture

January 17

Interpreting Film: The Case of Ozu Yasujiro

Screening: *Late Spring* (Ozu Yasujiro, 1949) or *Early Summer* (Ozu Yasujiro, 1951)

- Phillips, Alastair. "Pictures of the past in the present: modernity, femininity and stardom in the postwar films of Ozu Yasujiro." *Screen* 44.2 (2003): 154-166.
- Abe Mark Nornes, "The Riddle of the Vase: Ozu Yasujiro's Late Spring," in *Japanese Cinema: Texts and Contexts*, ed. Julian Stringer and Alastair Phillips (New York: Routledge, 2007), 78-89.

January 24

Women, Melodrama, and Empire: Naruse Mikio

Screening: *Floating Clouds* (Naruse Mikio, 1955)

- Horiguchi Noriko, "Migrant Women, Memory, and Empire in Naruse Mikio's Film Adaptations of Hayashi Fumiko's Novels," *US-Japan Women's Journal* (2009): 42-72.

January 31

The Male Star and His Body

Screening: *Crazed Fruit* (Nakahira Ko, 1951) or *The Season of the Sun* (Furukawa Takumi, 1956)

- Michael Raine, "Ishihara Yujiro: Youth, celebrity, and the male body in late-1950s Japan," in *Word and Image in Japanese Cinema*, ed. Dennis Washburn and Carole Cavanaugh (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001): 202-225.
- Isolde Standish, *A New Century of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film* (New York and London, Continuum, 2005), 220-237

February 7

Kansai Film:

Screening: *The Makioka Sisters* (Ichikawa Kon, 1983)

- Kathe Geist, "Adapting *The Makioka Sisters*," in *Kon Ichikawa*, ed. James Quandt (Minneapolis, Indiana UP, 2001): 357-372.
- David Desser, "Space and Narrative in *The Makioka Sisters*," in *Kon Ichikawa*, ed. James Quandt (Minneapolis, Indiana UP, 2001): 373-384.

February 14

Local Film Culture in Kyoto

Field trip to a local film theatre/event (TBA)

February 21

Kyoto in Film: Memory and Local Identity

Screening: *Sisters of the Gion* (Mizoguchi Kenji, 1936)

- Sato Tadao, *Kenji Mizoguchi and the Art of Japanese Cinema* (New York: Berg, 2008), 41-54
- Kelly Hansen, "Contesting images of gender: reexamining Mizoguchi Kenji's *Sisters of the Gion* for the twenty-first century," *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema* (2017): 1-13.

February 28

Representing Otherness

Screening: *Go* (Yukisada Isao, 2001)

- Mika Ko, *Japanese Cinema and Otherness: Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and the Problem of Japaneseness* (London and New York: Routledge, 2010), 117-135.
- Mika Ko, *Japanese Cinema and Otherness*, 160-170.

March 7

Love and Friendship in Girls' Film

Screening: *Kamikaze Girls* (Nakashima Tetsuya, 2004)

- Vera C. Mackie, "Reading Lolita in Japan," in *Girl Reading Girl in Japan*, ed. T. Aoyama & B. Hartley (London: Routledge: 2010), 187 - 201
- Deborah Shamoan, "Situating the shōjo in shōjo manga: Teenage girls, romance comics, and contemporary Japanese culture" in *Japanese visual culture: explorations in the world of manga and anime*, ed. Mark W. MacWilliams (London: Routledge, 2014), 137-154.

March 14

Anime/Animal

Screening: *Ponyo on the Cliff* (Miyazaki Hayao, 2008)

- Suzan J. Napier, "The Anime Director, the Fantasy Girl and the Very Real Tsunami 宮崎 駿, ポニョ, 現実の津波," *The Asia-Pacific Journal | Japan Focus Volume 10:11* (2012): 1-10.
- Mel Chen, *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect* (Durham: Duke UP, 2012), 223-237.

March 28

Hamano Sachi: Aging and Sexuality

Screening: *Lily Festival* (Hamano Sachi, 2001)

- Hikari Hori, "Aging, Gender, and Sexuality in Japanese Popular Cultural Discourse: Pornographer Sachi Hamano and Her Rebellious Film *Lily Festival (Yurisai)*," in *Faces of Aging: The Lived Experiences of the Elderly in Japan*, ed. Yoshiko Matsumoto (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2011), 109-134.
- Shuichi Wada, "The Status and Image of the Elderly in Japan: Understanding the Paternalistic Ideology," *Faces of Aging*, 47-58.

April 4 & 11

Presentations on Research Paper/Visual Project: