

Syllabus format 2025

Semester	2025Winter			
Course	Japanese History through Film			
Instructor	TBD			
Instructed only by foreign language				
Instruction Language	English			
Active Learning included				
Active Learning Type	Discussion, Debates		Group work	Presentation
	Flipped Class	Possible Practicum/Fieldwork		Experience
	Investigation	Mock classes	PBL	Others
Course Description	Explore the rich tapestry of Japan's history through the captivating medium of film in this course. Study pivotal events, cultural shifts, and societal transformations that have shaped Japan's past, all through cinematic storytelling. From ancient legends to modern interpretations, you will analyze how filmmakers have portrayed and interpreted Japan's historical narrative. Gain a deeper understanding of Japanese history, culture, and society while developing your critical thinking and visual literacy skills. This course is a cinematic journey through Japan's fascinating past. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits with a minimum grade of a D.			
Course Objectives	By the end of the session, students should be able: - Gain a comprehensive understanding of key historical events, periods, and figures in Japanese history through the exploration of various films. - Analyze how the medium of film shapes and influences our perceptions of Japan's historical narratives. - Develop critical thinking skills by comparing and contrasting different cinematic interpretations of Japanese history. - Examine the cultural, social, and political contexts in which Japanese historical films were produced and received. - Explore the intersections between history, memory, and mythmaking in Japanese cinema. - Enhance visual literacy by evaluating how directors use visual storytelling techniques to convey historical themes and messages. - Engage in discussions and debates about the representation of history in film and its impact on collective memory and national identity. - Gain an appreciation for the complexities and nuances of Japan's historical legacy through the art of filmmaking.			
Course Schedule ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		
1st	14-Jan	- Introduction to the course and overview of Japanese history and film. - Screening of a foundational historical film set in Japan.		
2nd	15-Jan	- Lecture on ancient Japan and screening of a film depicting early Japanese society - Group discussion on the portrayal of ancient Japanese history in film		
3rd	16-Jan	- Exploration of feudal Japan through a historical epic film. - Analysis of themes such as samurai culture and societal hierarchy.		
4th	17-Jan	- Discussion on the Meiji Restoration and its depiction in film. - Screening of a film showcasing the modernization of Japan.		
5th	20-Jan	- Focus on wartime Japan and screening of a film set during World War II. - Ethical discussion on the portrayal of historical events in film.		
6th	21-Jan	- Examination of post-war Japan and its reconstruction in film. - Screening of a film depicting Japan's economic miracle.		
7th	22-Jan	- Discussion on contemporary Japan and its global influence. - Screening of a modern Japanese film reflecting current societal issues.		
8th	23-Jan	- Group project work: analyzing a selected historical Japanese film. - Presentation of project findings and critical analysis.		
9th	24-Jan	- Final presentations - Reflection on the intersection of Japanese history and filmmaking in shaping cultural narratives.		
Supplementary Activities ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		

1st		
2nd		
3rd		
Textbook	The instructor will provide class materials.	
Supplementary Reading		
Homework	Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.	
Grading	90-100 = A 80-89 = B 79-70 = C 60-69 = D 50 and below = F Breakdown: •Class Participation: 25% • Attendance: 25% •Assignments: 20% • Final Project: 30%	