

FILM 3375F: NEW WAVE CINEMA IN JAPAN

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Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1pm and Wednesday 12-1pm, or by appointment.

TIMETABLE

Screening: Monday, 12:30 – 3:30, AHB 3B02

Lecture/tutorial: Wednesday, 4:30 – 6:30, UCC 54A

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Sex. Activism. Rock 'n' roll. "New Wave" cinemas emerged around the world between 1955 and 1973. A new generation of iconoclastic filmmakers rebelled against the studio system and explored new media, such as the graphic novel and television. As with music, art, and literature, the cinema of this period shook off old ways and topics to explore new political and modernist forms of storytelling and new ideas about sex, gender, and society. Like those arts it also aimed to shock: the films we study are rhetorical interventions that often scandalized audiences with their unsettling juxtaposition of sex, violence, and politics. By studying critical writing as well as the films themselves we will seek to understand the intellectual and material conditions that brought about new wave cinema. We will discuss what the films tell us about Japan, and what they tell us about the global simultaneity and cultural permeability of cinema around the world that is sometimes ignored in single-country film histories.

All readings on the course are in English; no Japanese is required.

COURSE AIMS

The goal of the course is to develop an understanding of what it means to create something new in the cinema, and how to understand the social movement described as "new wave." It also aims to connect the specific experience of cinema in Japan to its social context. Studying this particular situation will give students an understanding of how to approach the relation between text and context in other times and places.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will have learned to critically appraise a wide range of films and other audio/visual texts, and will be prepared to make historically informed arguments about cinema as both symptom and agent of social change.

REQUIRED READING

All readings are available on the class web site. Please make sure to bring the readings to class, with the notes you have made on them. You can either print the readings or read them on your laptop (not your phone!).

There are two prior surveys in English on the Japanese New Wave that are certainly worth reading: Desser, David. *Eros Plus Massacre: An Introduction to the Japanese New Wave* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1988)

Standish, Isolde. *Politics, Porn, and Protest: Japanese Avant-Garde Cinema in the 1960s and 1970s* (Continuum, 2011)

Maureen Turim's *The Films of Oshima Nagisa: Images of a Japanese Iconoclast* is also interesting. I would also highly recommend Yuriko Furuhashi's *Cinema of Actuality* (Duke UP, 2013), which deals with some of the material on the course. You can get these books through your favorite bookseller.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and participation [10%]:

- Attendance will be taken at every class (screenings and lecture/tutorials). More than three absences will affect the attendance mark. If you are absent from a screening or lecture, or an assignment is late due to illness or other legitimate reasons, contact Student Services and have them forward supporting documentation to me. Make sure you catch up with the material by looking through the slides on the web site. We should watch the films together, as a class. A screening on a tiny monitor, while "multitasking" is no substitute for the experience of watching a film as it was intended to be seen, with full-screen projection and an audience. If you must miss a screening or to prepare for the tests and exam, study copies of the films are available in the Film Library, AHB 1G19. Students with special permission to watch films on their own time and needing to do so during the 2.00-4.30 period should speak to the Film Librarian to make special arrangements to do so, as normally the Film Library will be closed during the afternoon.
- Participation means taking active part in class discussion, demonstrating that you have prepared the readings, and that you have thought carefully about the film. We can't have a discussion if you haven't done the reading. I will assign individual reports if I think people are not sufficiently preparing the readings.

2. Pop quizzes [10%]

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period. You are responsible for arriving on time, having familiarized yourself with major plot points in the film and the main arguments of the readings. Your best 10 quizzes will count toward your grade.

3. Final Examination [35%]

Examination covering material from the entire course. You will be expected to give short answers and paragraph answers, and to write one short essay.

4. Essays [15% and 30%]:

There will be two essay assignments during the term. The first will be a short textual analysis and the second will be a longer essay that combines textual and contextual analysis. The second essay will feature multiple deadlines for topic, annotated bibliography, and final submission. There will also be the opportunity to raise your grade by up to 10 points by rewriting your essay after I return it to you. Detailed instructions will be given in assignments posted to the web site. The emphasis will be on marshaling evidence to make cogent arguments, drawing on scholarly and other resources. You might find it helpful to look at the website on film analysis that is uploaded on . All essays must be uploaded to the class web site; they will be automatically passed through the plagiarism filters at turnitin.com.

Also: I am interested in exploring alternative assignment formats. If you are interested in doing your final assignment as a creating project (a script, a video, etc.) instead of an academic essay, we can discuss that possibility.

Please note:

- a. Essays are specific assignments that require a specific style, use of argument, and length (within 10%). Think about that when you are editing your paper before you upload it.
- b. Assignments handed in late without a previously approved extension will be penalized 3% per day. Essays should be submitted to the appropriate section of the class web site as a *single uploaded file* in .docx format (put your name and the film title in the filename and include the .docx file extension). I

will write comments in your file and send it back to you. Please read them! You will have the opportunity to resubmit your final essay: you must indicate the changes you make, either by changing the color of the text or by using the "track changes" function of Word. You should keep a copy of every assignment you hand in.

c. Please refer to the grading criteria at the end of this syllabus.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
