

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Politics and Performance in the Japanese New Wave
Film 3375G (001)
Winter 2023

Instructor: Michael Raine
mraine3@uwo.ca
UC2421

Course Day/Time:
Screening: Monday, 2:30 – 5:30, UC 1401
Lecture/tutorial: Thursday, 3:30 – 5:30, UC 1401

Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2pm, or by
appointment

Prerequisites: At least 60% in Film Studies 1020E or Film Studies 1022, or 1.0 of English 1000-1999 plus English 2112F/G, Film 2212F/G, or Theatre Studies 2212F/G, or permission of the department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

"New Wave" cinemas emerged around the world between 1955 and 1973. A new generation of iconoclastic filmmakers rebelled against the studio system and its established forms of acting and storytelling. They drew on experiments in related fields of drama and performance art and explored new media such as the graphic novel and television. Like those other arts, the new cinema 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 of Japanese New Wave cinema. We will discuss what the films tell us about Japan, about the relationship of cinema and performance, and 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.

Objectives:

The goal of the course is to develop an understanding of what it means to create something new in the cinema, with a particular attention to performance. It aims to connect the specific experience of cinema in Japan to its social context, so that students can reflect on the social production of art. 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.

Course Materials

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.

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.

The MOMA source book *From Postwar to Postmodern, Art in Japan, 1945-1989* is also a useful collection for tracing the development of avant-garde art in Japan, which occasionally intersected with the cinema.

You can find these books in the library or through your favorite bookseller.

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance and participation [10%]

- Classes are collective experiences so attendance is mandatory. More than two 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. Please do not approach me with your private medical information. Make sure you catch up with the material by looking through the slides on the web site.
- Although virtual screenings are now commonplace, I would like to return to watching films as an event and a communal experience. Watching a film 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 Resource Library (UC 1126).
- Participation means taking active part in class discussion, and posts, demonstrating that you have prepared the readings and that you have thought carefully about the film. I will assign individual reports if I think people are not sufficiently preparing the readings. I will also hand out name cards so that I can make sure I know your names.

Viewing responses [15%]

This is an essay course. In previous years, I have assigned two academic essays to satisfy that requirement. This year I am experimenting with alternative forms of writing that require you to put your original thoughts into persuasive prose. At the end of each screening, you will be given time to respond to a prompt on the film and the readings for that week. The benefit of this exercise comes from nudging you to do the readings in time for class, giving you a chance to organize your thoughts on the films before we discuss them, and giving you practice in writing persuasive prose. *The top five responses will be counted for your grade.*

Pop quizzes [10%]

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each lecture period, to give you credit for arriving prepared. 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.*

Essay [30%]

There will be one research essay assignment during the term. The assignment combines textual and contextual analysis. It will feature multiple deadlines for topic, annotated bibliography, and final submission. If you submit the essay on time, there will also be an opportunity to raise your grade by up to 10 points by revising the 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. All essays must be uploaded to the class web site; they will be automatically passed through the plagiarism filters at turnitin.com. You might find it helpful to look at the website on film analysis that is uploaded at <https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/>.

Also: I am interested in exploring alternative assignment formats. If you are interested in doing your final assignment as a creative 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, up to a maximum of 21%. 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! If you submit your final essay on time, you will have the opportunity to resubmit it. If you do so, you must indicate the changes you make, by using the "track changes" function of Word.
- c. Please refer to the grading criteria listed at the end of the assignment.

Final Examination [35%]

The Final Examination covers material from the entire course. You will be expected to give short answers and paragraph answers, and to write one essay, approximately three pages long.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

You are allowed two unexcused absences from class. Your two lowest scores on your quizzes and in-class discussion posts will be dropped. Only your five highest forum posts will be counted. If you miss more than two classes / quizzes, or write less than five forum posts, your grade will be affected. In principle, grades will never be reweighted, and work (even if less than 10% of the course grade) can only be made up if Academic Counselling recommends that you receive an accommodation.

Students should note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for academic consideration must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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 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 writing 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. See <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

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

You may wish to contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Digital Student Experience

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.