

## **JPNS 371 Japanese Film and Anime**

Time: MWF, 1:00-1:50 pm

Meeting Place: LA140

Instructor: Michihiro Ama ([michihiro.ama@mso.umt.edu](mailto:michihiro.ama@mso.umt.edu))

Office: LA320

Office Hours: 11:00 am–Noon and 2:00–3:00 pm on Monday

8:00–9:00 am on Wednesday

11:00 am–Noon on Friday

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the world of Japanese motion pictures from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We, however, focus on films and *anime* produced after 1945. Critical analyses of Japanese motion pictures require visual literacy—understanding Japanese history and culture. This course examines representations of Japanese society and Japanese values seen through landmark films produced by major directors, such as Ozu Yasujirō, Mizoguchi Kenji, and Kurosawa Akira; perceptions of those works and their influence on other films; and the development of Japanese cinematic tradition and formation of the Japanese film industry. Thematic orientations of the course include memories of the Pacific War, Japanese perceptions of life and death, expressions of Japanese masculinity and femininity, and Japanese family and kinship.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and characterize works of major Japanese film directors,
- 2) Describe the postwar development of Japan and discuss problems of modern/contemporary Japanese society seen through Japanese motion pictures,
- 3) Explain changes in Japanese families, domestic life, their values, and human relationships,
- 4) Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze Japanese visual culture.

### Course Materials and Instruction for Viewing Films

Students are required to watch films before they come to class. While most of the films assigned for this course are reserved for four hours at the Mansfield Library—which means students can check out a film at the front desk and watch it only within the library—they are also available through Amazon Instant Video. Students are encouraged to communicate with each other and form small groups to watch the films together. Some films include

“adult” contents and students will be alerted in advance about them. In addition to viewing the films, students are required to read scholarly articles about those films. For the assigned articles, see course schedule.

### Course Media

Moodle will be used. Students are responsible for obtaining updated course information by checking Moodle. Students are required to maintain all artifacts, which include presentation materials, review papers, and summaries of the readings.

### Course Requirements and Grade Evaluations

1. Weekly Postings	15 %
2. Midterm exam	20 %
3. Submission of the topic for final research paper	10 %
4. Final research paper, first draft	15 %
5. A 10-page final research paper	20 %
6. Class discussion	10 %
<u>7. Attendance &amp; participation</u>	<u>10 %</u>
Total	100 %

### Grade Scale

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=below 59%

### Weekly Postings and Midterm Exam (See 1 and 2)

Before students come to class, they are required to respond to questions the instructor will post online about assigned films. There will be a mid-term examination.

### Final research paper project (See 3, 4, and 5)

Students are required to write a final research paper about a film they wish to explore. They should briefly summarize the storyline, explain the film’s historical background, and identify and discuss its major themes. They should cite at least two scholarly articles.

### Class Discussion (See 6)

Students must come to class fully prepared to discuss assigned films.

### Attendance & Participation (See 7)

- Attendance is mandatory. *Student attendance will be noted at the beginning of each class.* Late arrival to class will be counted as 1/2 an absence. Early departure from a

class will be counted as a one-day absence.

- Participation is a vital part of language acquisition and will affect a student's grade. Students can improve their participation and make the class more interesting by coming to class prepared; interacting with the instructor and classmates in Japanese; and asking questions, commenting on discussion topics, and volunteering answers and sharing ideas.
- While in class, students must refrain from chitchatting, studying for other classes, sleeping, and using cell phones. If these activities are repeated, the student will be subject to points-reduction (10 percent of their final grades).
- It is highly recommended that students keep up-to-date by regular contact with their classmates, regarding handouts and other such information.

### Grading Policy

- If a student drops the course, s/he is responsible for the paperwork. Otherwise, the student will receive an F as the final grade. If a student wishes to change grade option, s/he must register this request. See **Official Dates and Deadlines for Autumn Semester 2019**.

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/201970-Official-Dates-and-Deadlines.pdf>

Changing the status after the official dates and deadlines is NOT permitted.

- *Incomplete grades will NOT be granted*, unless the student has progressed satisfactory but is prevented from continuing the course because of incidents beyond the student's control.
- When long absences and emergencies are expected, consult with the instructor immediately. *Do NOT wait until the incident is over*.
- *Make-up tests will NOT be permitted* unless the student has a legitimate excuse and contacts the instructor 12 hours prior to a quiz/exam. However, it will be completely up to the instructor's discretion about whether to grant a make-up.
- Students are required to maintain all of their work, including tests, quizzes, homework, and artifacts, which may include business cards, a video recording of a presentation, business letters, etc.

### Academic Honesty

Students are expected to follow ethical standards such as integrity and honesty in preparing and presenting materials that demonstrate their level of knowledge and which will be used to determine their grades. When an act of academic dishonesty is detected, the instructor is obliged to speak to the student and report it to the Department. For more detailed information, see the **section V Academic Conduct in the University of Montana Student Conduct Code** (<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20-%20FINAL%20-%202018-24-18.pdf>).

### Student Service Policies

- Emergency Procedures: In case of an emergency evacuation, students will take all their personal belongings and move to a safe area outside the building.
- **Disability Accommodations:** “Students with disabilities, faculty, and Disability Services for Students have rights and responsibilities related to reasonable modifications. Collaborative efforts among these three parties ensure equal access.”  
“Faculty expects the student to initiate modification requests and provides reasonable modifications to ensure equal access. Faculty also refers students to Disability Services when necessary and refrains from retaliation against individuals advocating for accessibility.” (Cited from <https://www.umt.edu/dss/Students/Responsibilities.php>)  
It is highly recommended that students with certified disabilities make a specific request to the instructor at least one week prior to a particular need.
- Disruptive and Improper Behavior: Cell phones must be turned off when a class is in session. No chewing of gum or eating in class is allowed. The dress code should be in accord with the learning place.