



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

## **ASIA\_V 354 - Introduction to Japanese Cinema**

**Colleen Laird**

This is an introductory survey course on the cinema of Japan from the silent era to the present. We will practice the foundations of media literacy, visual analysis, and reception as we trace culturally specific historical, industrial, and aesthetic movements throughout the history of Japan's film industries. As we traverse over a hundred years of cinema in thirteen weeks, remember that while we will be encountering representative films that highlight specific historical developments and trends, no one film can represent the entirety of expression, experimentation, or even commercial popularity of a given moment, locale, or audience. Keep in mind this is an introduction to Japanese cinema; you are only just getting acquainted! To maintain this perspective, we will encounter a variety of genres, directors, and production modes supplementary to the readings and screenings each week during the lecture period. All readings are in English. Most films are in Japanese with English subtitles.

**Mode of Delivery:** In Person

### **Sample Readings**

Yomota Inuhiko. What is Japanese Cinema? A History. Columbia University Press. 2019.

Yoshimoto, Mitsuhiro. "Humanism and Essentialism in the Postwar Era." In Kurosawa: Film Studies and Japanese Cinema, 9–19. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Colleen Laird and Ayako Saitō, The Japanese Women Directors Project: Digital Dialogue with Prof. Ayako Saitō on Tanaka Kinuyo, video, 41:27, YouTube, August 16, 2022, <https://youtu.be/kUS6ySMp7WM>.

### **Assignments**

Attendance and Class Discussions|10 each

Reflection Assignment, Mise-en-scène Description, Framing & Lighting Description, Editing Description, and Sound Description|5 each

Midterm (take-home)|15

Auteur Study Sketch and Paratext Assignment|10 each

Final Exam (in-person)|20