This course will offer a broad survey of Japanese cinema, including early silent films, fictional feature films, documentaries, and anime (animated films). The goals of this course are: to gain a familiarity with and appreciation for Japanese films and culture, to learn the basic history of Japanese cinema, to acquire the necessary vocabulary and tools for analyzing films as cinematic texts, and to develop critical thinking skills when viewing, discussing, and writing about film. This class requires no background in Japanese language, film, or history; all films are subtitled in English. Classes will include a lecture component, but will be heavily focused on whole class and small group discussions. Your consistent attendance and active participation are essential to the success of this class and your grade in it.

The basic general format will be as follows: each Tuesday, we will watch a new film beginning at 5 p.m. in PAR 203. In Thursday’s class, we will discuss the film, our reactions to it, the key issues it raises, etc. as an entire class and in small groups. On the following Tuesday, most weeks you will be assigned to read an article that relates to this film and/or the issues it raises; occasionally, you will instead or in addition have a homework assignment due in class (as indicated on the class schedule). In Tuesday’s class, we will discuss the film in the context of the readings and/or the assignment. Pop quizzes will often be held at the beginnings of class on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays to make sure that you’ve completed the viewings/readings and are in attendance. In addition, you will do frequent in-class assignments individually or in groups that help you develop the necessary skills of film analysis.

Required Viewings, Readings, & Materials:
• All films listed with a call number on the schedule above are available for re-viewing at the Fine Arts Library (DFA, 3rd floor). Others will be screened in class so it’s important not to miss those days.
• Required readings are in a course packet available for purchase at the northern branch of Jenn’s Copy shop at 2518 Guadalupe • 2518@jennscopies.com • 512-482-0779. Additional readings may be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents as PDFs or as web links.
• You will need to purchase the following materials and bring them with you to class:
  o A notebook that is dedicated to your film viewing notes and lecture/discussion notes. You will need your notes for in-class assignments, discussions, and the occasional open-book quiz.
  o You are welcome to use a laptop if you find it helps with note-taking for either lecture/discussion and/or film screenings, but surfing the web, chatting on Facebook, etc., are not allowed in class.
  o A packet of 3”x5” index cards. You’ll need to use your index cards for all pop quizzes or the quiz will not be graded. Quizzes will not be returned, but the answers will be given orally immediately following the quiz and grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Policy
Grades are assigned as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = D-; below 60 = F. As a rule, I do not grade on a curve or round up grades. If you receive an 89.5, you will receive a B+. One exception to this rule is that a grade that is very close to the next grade level, such as an 89.9 or 79.9, may be rounded up to the higher grade if the student has consistently attended class and participated fully in class discussions. There are no extra credit assignments for this class.
**Grading:**

- In-class pop quizzes & individual and group work = 10% total (lowest grade automatically dropped; absolutely no makeups)
- Contribution/Participation = 5% total (To earn the full 5% points, you will need to be a consistently active and good participant in class discussions.)
- Discussion Questions (4 total) = 5% total (Over the course of the semester, you will submit four separate discussion questions on four separate days (2 must be before spring break and 2 after) that are about either the film or readings we will be discussing that day. You must email these to me by 8 a.m. the morning of class as well as bring a hard copy to class. In order to get full credit for these, you need to come to class prepared to lead a brief discussion on your question. A sample model discussion question will be distributed in the first week of class.)
- Homework assignments (3 total) = 30% total (no lates accepted)
- Exams (2 total) = 50% total (20% for 1st exam on all material covered in readings, lecture, and discussion through Week 8; 30% for 2nd exam, cumulative, covering all material from the entire semester)

**Grading Policy**

Grades are assigned as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = D-; below 60 = F. As a rule, I do not grade on a curve or round up grades. If you receive an 89.7, you will receive a B+. One exception to this rule is that a grade that is very close to the next grade level, such as an 89.9 or 79.9, may be rounded up to the higher grade if the student has consistently attended class and participated fully in class discussions. There are no extra credit assignments for this class. Note the following standards: an “A” is earned for “excellent” work; “B” for “above average”; C for “average”; D for “pass”; and F for “failing.”

**Standards and Expectations:**

Careful, thorough viewing/reading of the assigned texts by the date indicated on the schedule. Viewing and reading require your active engagement with the text. Detailed note-taking is essential as is bringing your copies of notes and readings to class since you will need to refer to them frequently for group and class discussion/activities.

Attendance at all classes and considerate and attentive listening to the lecture. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave.

Active and considerate participation in class and group discussions. Common courtesy is expected. No one will be allowed to monopolize the class discussion or to shrink into the background. Remember you need to earn the participation/contribution points toward your grade and these are based on quality, not quantity, of participation.

Timely completion of assignments. No make-up assignments will be given. Extensions will be granted in only very rare cases for legitimate reasons (i.e. religious holidays), but even in these cases, arrangements must be made with the instructor one week prior to the due date. Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but there are no guarantees and extensions will require a note as well as e-mail or telephone notification prior to the class period. No exceptions.

Announcements of quizzes and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what has been assigned.

Powerpoints and other lecture notes will not be posted on blackboard. If you miss class, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate.
Official Policies

Academic integrity: You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors, such as plagiarism, copying of another student's work, or cheating on an exam, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an “F” for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work and/or discuss this with the instructor: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

University Electronic Notification Mail Policy: In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy (please see http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html), it is your responsibility to update your email address and to check your e-mail regularly.

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, please see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/

Use of Blackboard in Class: Assignments and some of our readings will be made available on blackboard. You should print these out and bring with you to class. Please allow yourself enough time before an assignment is due. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Blackboard is available at http://courses.utexas.edu. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.

Religious Holidays: If you will need to miss class or other assignments due to the observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you have missed provided you notify me at least one week prior to the absence.
Preliminary Schedule (updated version posted on Blackboard)

Note: All Japanese directors are listed with last name first following the Japanese practice. Films with a call # are available for re-viewing at Fine Arts Library (3.200 Doty Fine Arts Building).

Week One (Jan. 15 & 17) – Unit 1. Japanese Heroes & Film Genres: From Cowboy to Samurai to Gangster
Tues: Introduction; “How to take notes while watching/enjoying a film”
Screening: *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, Kurosawa Akira, 1954, 200 min., DVD 5759)
Thurs: Discuss *Seven Samurai*

Week Two (Jan. 22 & 24)
Tues: Continue discussion of *Seven Samurai* & In-class clips of early *jidai-geki* period films
--Richie, “Introduction” [to *The Seven Samurai*], pp. 5-23
HW #1 due (5%) – *Seven Samurai* scene analysis
Screening: *Tampopo* (Itami Juzō, 1985, 114 min., DVD 107)
Thurs: Discuss *Tampopo*

Week Three (Jan. 29 & 31)
Tues: Continue discussion of *Tampopo*
Screening: *Fireworks* (*Hana-bi*, Kitano “Beat” Takeshi, 1997, 103 min., DVD 713)
Thurs: Discuss *Fireworks*

Week Four (Feb. 5 & 7):
Tues: Continue discussion of *Fireworks*
Screening: no screening
Thurs: HW #2 due (10%) – Short 2-page essay comparing/contrasting the male protagonists in two of the films we’ve watched using a close reading of two scenes to support your argument.
Wrap-up discussion on Samurai to Gangster & Genre

Week Five (Feb. 12 & 14) – Unit 2. The Japanese Heroine & Auteur: From Geisha to Virgin to Con-Artist
Tues: In-class screening of *Sisters of the Gion* (*Gion no kyōdai*, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1936, 66 min., DVD 12255)
Screening: no screening
Thurs: Discuss *Sisters of Gion*

Week Six (Feb. 19 & 21)
Tues: Continue discussion of *Sisters of Gion*
--Burch, “Mizoguchi Kenji,” 217-218, 224-230 *Sisters*
Screening: *Late Spring* (*Banshun*, Ozu Yasujiro, 1949, 108 min., DVD 4924)
Thurs.: Discuss *Late Spring*

Week Seven (Feb. 26 & 28)
Tues.: Continue discussion of *Late Spring*
--Wood, “Resistance to Definition: Ozu’s “Noriko” Trilogy,” pp. 94-123 & Ozu biography
Screening: *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*, 1956, Nakahira Kō, 86 min., DVD 4185)
Thurs: Discuss *Crazed Fruit*
Week Eight (Mar. 5 & 7):
Tues: In-Class Exam #1 (25%) with take-home essay due
Screening: *Millenium Actress* (Sennen joyū, 2001, Satoshi Kon, 87 min., DVD 12272)
Thurs.: Discuss *Millenium Actress*

*March 11-15: OFF FOR SPRING BREAK*

Week Nine (Mar. 19 & 21) – Unit 3: *Early Japanese Film: From Silents to Talkies*
Tues: Review midterm exams
In-class clips and discussion of early silents & talkies (incl. The Neighbor's Wife and Mine** (Madamu to nyōbō, Gosho Heinosuke, 1931)
In-class clips of early Ozu silent film (TBD) & of Good Morning (Ohayō, Ozu Yasujirō, 1959)
--Fujiki, “Benshi as Stars,” pp. 68-84
Screening: no screening
Thurs.: In-class screening of *Page of Madness* (Kurutta ippeiji, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1926, 60 min., VC 9429/DVD)

Week Ten (Mar. 26 & 28)
Tues: --discuss *Page of Madness*
--Gerow, “What Is This Film？” & Translations of Contemporary Reviews, pp. 1-6 & pp. 100-110
Screening: *China Nights* (Shina no yoru, Osamu Fushimizu, 1940, 124 min.)
Thurs.: Discuss *China Nights*

Week Eleven (Apr. 2 & 4) – Unit 4. *Political Films: From Propaganda to Documentary to Avant-garde*
Tues: Continue discussion of *China Nights*
Thurs: Discuss *Extreme Private Eros*
--Ruoff and Ruoff, “Japan's Outlaw Filmmaker: An Interview with Hara Kazuo,” pp. 103-113
--Ruoff and Ruoff, “Filming at the Margins: The Documentaries of Hara Kazuo,” pp. 115-126
In-class clips: Sayōnara CP (Hara Kazuo, 1972, 82 min., DVD 7841) and *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (Yuukiyukite shingun, Hara Kazuo, 1987, 120 min., DVD 6094)

Week Twelve (Apr. 9 & 11)
Tues.: In-class screening of *Death by Hanging* (Kōshikei, Ōshima Nagisa, 1968, 117 min.)
Screening: No screening
Thurs: Finish screening of *Death by Hanging* and begin discussing

Week Thirteen (Apr. 16 & 18) – Unit 5. *Monsters: From Postwar to Contemporary*
Tues.: Continue discussion of *Death by Hanging*
--Oshima, “About Death by Hanging,” 165-169
--Turim, “Rituals, Desire, Death: Leaving One's Will on Film,” pp. 61-81
Screening: *Gojira* (dir. Honda Ishirō, 1954, 98 min., DVD 5546) followed by optional (but very fun) screening of.... *Godzilla, King of the Monsters* (dir. Terry O. Morse, 1956, 80 min., DVD 5546)
Thurs: Discuss *Gojira*
Week Fourteen (Apr. 23 & 25)
Tues.: Continue discussion of *Gojira*
[In-class clips of *Godzilla, King of the Monsters* (dir. Terry O. Morse, 1956, 80 min.)]
Screening: Monster Movie / J-Horror (TBD)
Thurs.: Discuss Monster Movie / J-Horror

Week Fifteen (April 30 & May 2)
Tues.: Continue discussion of Monster Movie / J-Horror
Screening: no screening
Thurs.: Wrap-up & Review Session
--Richie, “A Definition of the Japanese Film,” pp. 158-172
HW #3 due (15%) – Response to Richie (details TBA)

Week Sixteen (May 3 & 5)
Tues.: Exam #2 (30%) – Part One
Screening: no screening
Thurs.: Exam #2 continued – Part Two