

**INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN CINEMA**  
**AEAS140 [8W2] (Class 10272)**  
**Spring 2012 Third Quarter**

Class Time and Location: MW 5:45–8:35 in SS256

Instructor: Mark Blum

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***Course Description***

This course is a general introduction to East Asian culture and civilization studied through the medium of film, and meets the requirement for General Education Arts Courses. We will focus primarily on post-War Japanese-speaking cinema but we will also view films from China and Korea. It presumes no prior knowledge of East Asia society and culture, its cinema, or its artistic traditions general.

***Learning Objectives***

The goal of the course is gain familiarity into the values, social norms, and ways of thinking in East Asia as expressed through the artists who created the seven films we will view and discuss. You will also gain an appreciation of the aesthetic merits of these films in their cultural settings in Japan, and China, and Korea. And you should gain an increased understanding of the cultural background and shared values in these three societies that make these films resonate so strongly there, and the degree to which both the aesthetic and social values on display also resonate with Western culture.

***Class Structure***

This is a quarter course, beginning on March 19th, meeting twice a week, with a midterm on April 11th and final exam on May 14<sup>th</sup> held at the normal class time. Discussion of the cultural setting, artistic approach, and themes of the films always follows after viewing the film itself, as the idea is to see the film with no prior knowledge and react to it as a work of art and social statement before applying a frame. The films are only shown once and no provision will be made for a second viewing. If you miss viewing a film, you are still responsible for having seen it, and will have to make your own arrangements for another viewing.

***Grading***

Grading will be determined as follows: 20% -- class attendance, preparation, and contribution; 25% mid-term exam; 25% final exam; 30% (three reaction papers at 10% each). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. No unexcused absences are allowed without prior notice and documentation from the undergraduate dean's office. Two points (2%) will be deducted for each unexcused absence. Numerical scores will be converted to course grades according to the following scale: A=95–100; A-=91–94; B+=88–90; B=85–87; B-=81–84; C+=78–80; C=75–77; C-=71–74; D+=68–70; D=65–67; D-=61–64; E=below 61. You must attend all classes and you must be punctual. There are no provisions for missed classes or missed exams. Wandering in and out of class is extremely distracting to the instructor and to other students in a class of this nature.

You are required to hand in three homework assignments that involve critical evaluations of films, usually of a comparative nature. These are limited to one-page, and are due at the beginning of class on

the dates assigned. Absence from class **IS NOT** a valid excuse for turning in homework late: your homework is due at the same time, *regardless*. If the paper is not submitted on-time, you will be marked down one full grade (e.g. B → C) if the paper is received at that end of the day it is due, and two full grades if it is submitted the next day, 3 full grades the day after that. To avoid confusion, if you are late turn the paper in to the EAS dept secretary and ask for a time stamp.

These homework assignments are not “reviews” on how you liked this or that film, but are academic exercises that must address the questions posed in the homework assignment that is given out before each one. At the top of the single page, using only one line write your name and the number of the Reaction Paper, as in “Charlie McCarthy, Reaction Paper #2”. If you want to give your homework a title, that is fine but not required or expected. Plot summaries should only appear insofar as they support your argument; in other words, you should presume your reader is already familiar with the film.

### ***Academic Integrity***

The discovery of **any** cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any kind) on an exam or written assignment) will result in 1) expulsion from this class with a failing grade, 2) a referral of the matter to appropriate university officials. Note that copying of any material from the Internet without citation is plagiarism. There is material concerning these films on many Internet sites as they are famous for their artistic merit, but if you use this material without proper citation, it is cheating and you fail the course. There are no exceptions.

### ***Class Etiquette***

There is no talking, eating, or drinking allowed during the viewing or discussing of films. This is an academic exercise and you must give the film your full attention. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off **before** class begins. If your phone rings during class, you will have points deducted from your grade. You should take notes as you watch the films, recording who made the film, what it is about, etc. If necessary, consider bringing a small flashlight to assist writing in a darkened room.

### ***Schedule***

Mar. 19	Introduction to the course; view <i>Rashōmon</i> (1950)	
Mar. 21	Discussion of <i>Rashōmon</i>	
Mar. 26	View <i>Ran</i> (1985)	
Mar. 28	Discussion of <i>Ran</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> reaction paper due</b>
Apr. 2	View <i>To Live</i> (1994)	
Apr. 4	Discussion of <i>To Live</i>	
Apr. 9	<b>Holiday – No Class</b>	
Apr. 11	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Apr. 16	View <i>Spring, Fall, Summer, Winter . . . and Spring Again</i> (2004)	
Apr. 18	Discussion of <i>Spring, Fall, Summer</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reaction paper due</b>
Apr. 23	View <i>Tampopo</i>	
Apr. 25	Discussion of <i>Tampopo</i>	
Apr. 30	View <i>Departures</i>	
May 2	Discussion of <i>Departures</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> reaction paper due</b>
May 7	Last Class - mystery film	
May 14	<b>Final Exam: 5:45-7:45PM</b>	