PAAS 393 Fall 2020

Humanism in Japanese Cinema to the 1960s

Instructor: M. Cody Poulton

Times: Mondays and Thursdays 4:30-6:00 pm

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Office Hours: by appointment.

Course description:
Japan has one of the oldest, and one of the largest film industries in the world, one that during its golden age in the 1950s rose to international prominence. We will focus on a number of foremost directors of 20th century Japanese cinema, such as Mizoguchi, Kurosawa, Ozu, and Kobayashi, as well as a selective group who represent the new wave of Japanese film in the 1960s (e.g., Oshima, Imamura, Teshigagahara). Topics to be covered include: genre; modern Japan and its history; the family; the status of women; injustice and social critique. During the fall all work will be conducted online, with weekly screenings, lectures and discussion of the films.

Proposed assignments:
Ten weekly reports of the films being screened (10 X 5% = 50%)

Essay: Outline (10%) Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography (10%) Final essay (30%)

Proposed reading list:
All films and readings will be made available to students by streaming video on the CourseSpace site.