

PAAS 393 Humanism in Japanese Cinema

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Course description:

“How do I find meaning in my life?” is the basic question facing every individual—even though the answers are as unique as each person, the processes of finding them are similar—as well as difficult! Post-war Japanese cinema gives us characters facing this question, and finding answers that can deeply affect, encourage, and inspire us to find our own paths to meaning and purpose. Come see how works of art can pose questions and propose answers about the basic starting point of a contributive social life, and immerse yourself in the fundamental, vital project of the Humanities.

Proposed assignments:

Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Annotated Bibliography and outline	20%
Midterm Essay:	20%
Term Essay:	30%

Proposed reading list:

Sartre, Jean Paul: "Existentialism is a Humanism," a lecture delivered in 1946

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm>

- Gahringer, Robert E.: "Liberalism and Humanism," *Ethics*, 66:1, 1955.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2378541>

- Battersby, James L.: "The Inescapability of Humanism," *College English*, 58: 5, 1996

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/378756>

- Hoenigswald, Richard: "On Humanism," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Review*, 19: 1, 1948

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2103850>

- Sato, Tadao: "The Family" (Chapter 7), "Cinematic Techniques" (Chapter 9), *Currents in Japanese Cinema*, 1982

- Burch, Noël: "Kurosawa Akira," *To the Distant Observer*, 1979

- Iles, Tim "The Functions of the Past: Political Allegory in Kenji Mizoguchi's *Sansho the Bailiff*, *Film International* #16, 2005.

- Matsumura, Janice. "State Propaganda and Mental Disorders: The Issue of Psychiatric Casualties among Japanese Soldiers During the Asia-Pacific War," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Volume 78, Number 4, Winter 2004

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/bulletin_of_the_history_of_medicine/toc/bhm78.4.html

- Washburn, Dennis "Toward a View from Nowhere: Perspective and Ethical Judgment in *Fires on the Plain*," *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Winter, 1997), pp. 105-131

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/133125>

- McDonald, Keiko: Chapter 2: "Sand, Man, and Symbols: Teshigahara's *Woman in the Dunes*," Chapter 7: "Freedom of Imagination in Ôshima's *Death by Hanging*," *Cinema East*, 1983

- Iles, Tim "The Nation Collapsing Under its Own Weight *Kôshikei (Death by Hanging)*" ejcjs,

<http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/reviews/filmreviews/2005/Iles2.html>