“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:

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
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<td>Term Essay:</td>
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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

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

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

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


• 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.

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

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


• Iles, Tim “The Nation Collapsing Under its Own Weight *Kōshiket (Death by Hanging)*” ejcjs,
http://www.japanelidestudies.org.uk/reviews/filmreviews/2005/Iles2.html