

**JPST 354: INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE FILM**

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Nina Langton

**Course Objectives:**

The goal of the course is to help you develop the tools to analyse and appreciate Japanese films. This will be done by viewing, discussing and writing about significant films produced since the post-war period.

By the end of the course, to the extent of your effort and ability, you will be able to:

1. Identify major directions and movements in post-war Japanese film.
2. Identify selected major directors of the Japanese cinema and explain how their work relates to the historical, social, and aesthetic context of their time.
3. Describe and analyse how the basic technical aspects of film (mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound) shape the finished product and the audience response to it.
4. Analyse storytelling elements and techniques that shape the creation of a film and the audience response to it.
5. Reflect on and discuss critically and persuasively the merits and shortcomings of a film.
6. Work collaboratively in a group to create an oral presentation that clearly communicates a critical interpretation of the film, including the storyline, characters and aesthetic style.
7. Effectively give and receive peer feedback on in-class and formal writing assignments
8. Produce a final essay, following accepted academic style, that demonstrates an ability to view, research, critically analyse and evaluate a film or films.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Richie, Donald. *A Hundred Years of Japanese Film: A Concise History, with a Selective Guide to DVDs and Videos*. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2001 (2012 US Edition).