

<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b> Showa Japan: The Years before the War in Stories and Films	<b>Credits</b> 2	<b>Instructor (s)</b> Reinhold GRINDA
<b>Keywords</b>			
<b>Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)</b>	<p>The last years before the Second World War were both a highly interesting and a very confusing time in Japan: high unemployment and growing distance between government and people on one hand, rapid developments in most arts, including one of the most interesting national film cultures, and remarkable literary activity, albeit under censorship, on the other. This class will focus on the fifteen first years of Showa history, 1926 to 1941, by showing classic films of the period and reading some of its stories, all depicting important aspects of their day. The class aims at giving a vivid picture of life in Japan during the most turbulent and complicated period of its modern history: the last days of peace, with all their problems. Along with a minimum of commentary and explanation, we are going to watch some of the most acclaimed films of their day (with subtitles), read some short works by major writers (English translation attached), and will have enough chance to ask or discuss afterwards.</p>		
<b>Course Schedule</b>	1	Brief Introduction: What was Pre-War Japan like?	
	2-12	Films/Reading and Discussion	
	13-15	Presentation Sessions	
<b>Textbook (s)</b>	prints		
<b>Reference (s)</b>			
<b>Grading Method</b>	Final Presentation	40%	
	Active Participation	60%	
<b>Message to Students</b>	Understand modern Japan and its Twentieth century better through its own films and stories		
<b>Contacts</b>	E-mail: <a href="mailto:grinda@kdw.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp">grinda@kdw.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp</a> Office Hour: Wednesday, 16:30 to 17:30 Office Telephone: 023-628-4934		