

Course Number 79535	Course Title Showa Japan I: The Years before the War in Films and Stories 1	Credits 2	Instructor (s) Reinhold GRINDA
Keywords	(Chiefly for international students, but Japanese participants will be welcome to join!)		
Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)	<p>Showa Japan I: The Years before the War in Films and Stories</p> <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. Note that the following list of films and stories need not be the exact contents of this class: along with questions and/or further discussion of points of interest, wishes for others will be eagerly appreciated.</p> <p>「昭和の日本 1 戦前の映画、戦前の小説」</p> <p>日本の生活、特に都会生活は色々の面で、遅かれ早かれ、日本映画でも短編小説でも描かれたことがあるのだ。戦前の日本、その上がり下がり、現代と同じところも全然違うところも、貧乏な時も豊富な時も、少しずつ見せることが、このクラスの内容である。英語で最低限の解説をしながら、昭和時代の映画や小説で昭和時代の特徴を具体的に捕まえようとする。近現代の歴史に興味ある人も日本映画をもっと観たい人にも面白い講座。</p> <p>「狂った一頁」(昭和二年) A Displaced Page (silent, 1927): early Showa film experiment</p> <p>「何が彼女をそうさせたか」(五年) What Made Her Do This? (silent, 1930): hard times</p> <p>「有りがとうさん」(十一年) Mr Thank You (1936): pre-war life outside the cities</p> <p>「信子」(十五年) Nobuko (1940): pre-war school life</p> <p>...and other films</p> <p>.横光利一「青い石を拾ってから」(大正 14)「街の底」(大正 14)「青い大尉」</p>		

	(大正 15) Yokomitsu Riichi: After Picking Up a Blue Stone; The Depths of the Town: The Pale Captain (1925/26, tr. Dennis Keene) 徳田秋声「勲章」(昭和 10) Tokuda Shusei: Order of the White Paulownia (1935, tr. Morris) 永井荷風「勲章」(17) Nagai Kafu: The Decoration (1942, tr. Seidensticker) ...and other stories	
Course Schedule	1	What was Pre-War Japan like? A Brief Introduction
	2-12	Films/Reading and Discussion
	13-15	Presentation Sessions
Textbook (s)	prints	
Reference (s)		
Grading Method	Active Participation	60 %
	Presentation&Handout	40%
Message to Students	Get to know an interesting era through its own films and stories!	
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