

Course Number	Course Title Japanese Popular Heroes, from the Age of Wars to Pre-modern Days	Credits 2	Instructor (s) Reinhold GRINDA
Keywords	Japanese history, Kamakura to Edo		
Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)	<p>Japanese Popular Heroes, from the Age of Wars to Pre-modern Days</p> <p>From Japan's legendary past to the advent of modern times a hundred and forty years ago, there have been a number of persons, either historical or fictional, who have become as famous as to represent their respective age. These keep reappearing again and again in novels, films, and on television. Closely linked to these are a small number of stereotypes everybody knows: samurai, yakuza, etc. Virtually all of these heroes stem from the warrior class; but they differ very much from one another with respect to their status and personality, and the age they were living in. This class will show some typical films centering on representative heroes from the Kamakura Age to the end of the Edo Era. We will see how, within three hundred years of times getting first more and more peaceful and then more and more chaotic, the image of the typical hero changed from warlord to politician to avenger (Chushingura) to complete outlaw (Shimizu no Jirocho, Kunisada Chuji): from ruling representative of the country to respectable gangster. All of these heroes are still present in the public mind now, their images being highly contradictory and quite fascinating.</p> <p>日本でもっとも人気ある英雄たちは、みんな同じではない。戦国時代から江戸末期まで、どのような人物が人気を呼んだか、歴史的な人物でも小説や寄席の主人公も、それは時代とともにだいぶ変わってきたのだ。ヒーロー・イメージとは、戦国武将から将軍や政治家（水戸黄門）、仇討の浪士、ついに来たつたのアウトロー（清水の次郎長、国定忠治）へ。色々の時代の人気者を、説明とともに映画で観る、分りやすい英語で行われているクラス。</p>		
Course Schedule	1	Japan's History from Sengoku to Edo, a Brief Overview	
	2 ~ 12	Films and Discussion	
	13 ~ 15	Presentation Sessions	
Textbook (s)	prints		
Reference (s)			
Grading Method	Active Participation	60 %	
	Presentation&Handout	40%	
Message to Students	Different times and their lions.		

Contacts	Office Hour at my Office, Thursday Afternoon 16:30 to 17:30 Mail: grinda@kdw.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp Telephone: 023-628-4934
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