

Fiction in Action Six Japanese Novels and their Film Adaptation

Section 1

Instructor 時限	DRUET Lucile
Office/Building	902 (Main building - Nakamiya campus)
Office Hours	To be determined when the class schedule is decided

【Course Outline / Description】

After a general introduction and discussion of what it means to “intersect” movie and literature, the course will develop on six distinctive movies, all representative of the *bungei eiga* (film from literature or literary film) category.

Specifically, the course will be composed of six segments, giving the students the opportunity to explore and analyze fully the characteristics of each selected narrative.

Ranging from ghost stories to murder mystery, from social commentary to love drama, the stories are as follows:

1. Lafcadio Hearn, “Earless Hoichi” in *Kwaidan* (1904), adapted by Kobayashi Masaki, *Kwaidan* [specifically the “*Earless Hoichi*” section] (1964)
2. Ueda Akinari, “The Reed Choked House” and “A Serpent’s Lust” in *Tales of Rain and Moonlight* (1776), adapted in Mizoguchi Kenji, *Ugetsu* (1953)
3. Abe Kōbō, *The Woman in the Dunes* (1962), adapted by Teshigahara Hiroshi, *The Woman in the Dunes* (1964)
4. Tanizaki Junichirō, *Naomi* (1925), adapted by Masumura Yasuzō, *An idiot in Love* (1967)
5. Murakami Haruki, “Tony Takitani” in *Blind Willow, Sleeping Women* (1999), adapted by Ichikawa Jun, *Tony Takitani* (2004)
6. Minato Kanae, *Confessions* (2008), adapted by Nakashima Tetsuya, *Confessions* (2010).

Each class is designed to study in depth the key elements of the novels / short stories and their corresponding film adaptations. The plots and narrative elements of the different stories will be analyzed balancing textual and visual analysis, with discussions on how the stories are structured (looking at the characters' features, the relationships they form, the themes developed etc.). The classes will also provide the students with information on how fiction connects with issues in Japanese society and culture (the disruptions of war, ambitions, bullying at school, love and marriage, the applications of morals, the construction of modern identity etc.).

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

This course is meant to develop the students’ ability to interpret and contextualize prominent modern and contemporary Japanese fictional works which, beside national popularity, gained international recognition as well.

The students will thus acquire notions of critical discourse analysis, discipline and learn methods to compare, describe and analyze precisely and in detail what constitutes a good story / movie.

They will also gain perspectives on how directors adapt / change the author’s text to form their own movie versions.

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Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Class #	Contents	Preparation at home
		In class activities
1	Introduction / 1 Presentation of the different stories that will be studied in class + teaching philosophy and grading system.	At home: N/A
		In class: Come to class to receive the syllabus and instructions concerning the course.
2	Introduction / 2 “Intersecting” cinema and literature	At home: Read the following material: >> James Monaco, <i>How to Read a Film</i> (pp.51-58) >> Deborah Cartmell, <i>A Companion to Literature, Film and Adaptation</i> (pp.1-13)
		In class: Be ready to discuss the issues of “film adaptation” exposed in the readings. (Some Japanese movie examples will also be presented, in order to further the discussion.)
3	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 1 Movie (watch)	At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. >> Kobayashi Masaki, <i>Kwaidan</i> (1964)
		In class: Watch the movie in class and note the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships and their actions. + Note the use of music and colors. (Use the worksheet available on the course website)
4	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 2 Movie (discuss)	At home: N/A
		In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.
5	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 3 Short Story (read and discuss)	At home: Read the short story “Earless Hoichi” >> Lafcadio Hearn, <i>Kwaidan</i> (1904) (PDF available on the course website)
		In class:

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		Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)
6	Ugetsu / 1 Movie (watch)	At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. >> Mizoguchi Kenji, <i>Ugetsu</i> (1953)
		In class: Watch the movie and list the different characters and chart their relationships. + Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)
7	Ugetsu / 2 Movie (discuss)	At home: N/A
		In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.
8	Ugetsu / 3 Short stories (read and discuss)	At home: Read the short story “The Reed Choked House” >> Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Rain and Moonlight</i> (1776) (PDF available on the course website)
		In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)
9	Ugetsu / 4 Short stories (read and discuss)	At home: Read the short story “A Serpent’s lust” >> Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Rain and Moonlight</i> (1776) (PDF available on the course website)
		In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)
10	The Woman in the Dunes / 1 Movie (watch)	At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. >> Teshigahara Hiroshi, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i> (1964)
		In class:

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		<p>Watch the movie in class and note the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships and their actions. + Note the use of music and colors. (Use the worksheet available on the course website)</p>
11	The Woman in the Dunes / 2 Movie (discuss)	<p>At home: N/A</p> <p>In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.</p>
12	The Woman in the Dunes / 3 Novel (read and discuss)	<p>At home: Read the selected passages from the novel (Abe Kobo, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i> (1962)) (PDF available on the course website)</p> <p>In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)</p>
13	The Woman in the Dunes / 4 Novel (read and discuss)	<p>At home: Read the selected passages from the novel (Abe Kobo, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i> (1962)) (PDF available on the course website)</p> <p>In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)</p>
14	Review for the midterm quiz	<p>At home: Gather your notes and your handouts.</p> <p>In class: Be ready to review the topics for the midterm quiz (<i>Kwaidan</i>, <i>Ugetsu</i>, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i>)</p>
15	*Midterm exam *Quiz 1	<p>At home: Review the topics for the midterm quiz (<i>Kwaidan</i>, <i>Ugetsu</i>, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i>)</p> <p>In class: Be ready to answer the quiz (no handouts / class material or notes allowed but the use of dictionaries is permitted).</p>
16		At home:

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	<p>※Midterm exam</p> <p>※Essay 1 (topics)</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>In class: Be ready to get the documents with the list of different topics you can write on for your essay. (Deadline: class #19)</p>
17	<p>Naomi / 1 Movie (watch)</p>	<p>At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. >> Masumura Yasuzō, <i>An Idiot in Love</i> (1967)</p> <p>In class: Watch the movie in class and note the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships and their actions. + Note the use of music and colors. (Use the worksheet available on the course website)</p>
18	<p>Naomi / 2 Movie (discuss)</p>	<p>At home: N/A</p> <p>In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.</p>
19	<p>Naomi / 3 Novel (read and discuss)</p> <p>※ Essay 1 deadline</p>	<p>At home: Read the selected passages from the novel >> Tanizaki Junichirō, <i>Naomi</i> (1925) (PDF available on the course website)</p> <p>In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)</p>
20	<p>Naomi / 4 Novel (read and discuss)</p>	<p>At home: Read the selected passages from the novel >> Tanizaki Junichirō, <i>Naomi</i> (1925) (PDF available on the course website)</p> <p>In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)</p>
21	<p>Tony Takitani / 1 Movie (watch)</p>	<p>At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. >> Ichikawa Jun, <i>Tony Takitani</i> (2004)</p> <p>In class:</p>

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		<p>Watch the movie in class and note the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships and their actions. + Note the use of music and colors. (Use the worksheet available on the course website)</p>
22	<p>Tony Takitani / 2 Movie (discuss)</p>	<p>At home: N/A</p>
		<p>In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.</p>
23	<p>Tony Takitani / 3 Short story (read and discuss)</p>	<p>At home: Read the short story “Tony Takitani” >> Murakami Haruki, <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Women</i> (1999) (PDF available on the course website)</p>
		<p>In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)</p>
24	<p>※Final exam ※Essay 2 (topics)</p>	<p>At home: N/A</p>
		<p>In class: Be ready to get the documents with the list of different topics you can write on for your essay. Essay deadline: class #27</p>
25	<p>Confessions / 1 Movie (watch)</p>	<p>At home: Gather information about the director and the movie. > Nakashima Tetsuya, <i>Confessions</i> (2010)</p>
		<p>In class: Watch the movie in class and note the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships and their actions. + Note the use of music and colors. (Use the worksheet available on the course website)</p>
26	<p>Confessions / 2 Movie (discuss)</p>	<p>At home: N/A</p>
		<p>In class: Come to class to discuss the different characters, their actions and their relationships as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.</p>

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27	Confessions / 3 Novel (read and discuss)	At home: Read the selected passages from the novel >> Minato Kanae, <i>Confessions</i> (2008) (PDF available on the course website)
		In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)
28	Confessions / 4 Novel (read and discuss)	At home: Read the selected passages from the novel >> Minato Kanae, <i>Confessions</i> (2008) (PDF available on the course website)
		In class: Come to class with the text and be ready to talk about the main key elements (looking at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)
29	Conclusion	At home: N/A
		In class: Come to class to get the final remarks and notes on the six different stories (movies / novels, short stories) and conclude on the topic of movie adaptation, literature in cinema etc.
30	Review for the final exam	At home: N/A
		In class: Come to class to get advice on how to review and prepare for the final exam.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

No textbook required.

All reading materials (worksheets, short stories, book passages etc.) will be made available on the dedicated course website (link available after enrollment is complete).

Note: Blackboard will NOT be used.

【Instructions to students】

The students are required to read the documents (articles, book chapters, short stories etc) related to the class topics and gather information beforehand about the topic that will be studied in each lecture. They will also be prompted to discuss specific concepts and works in class (during group / class discussion time).

For both midterm and final exams, the students will have to take quizzes (in class) as well as produce

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1500 word essays (at home). The essays will be done with a focus on in-depth analysis and research, following the *Chicago Manual of Style* for referencing and editing.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Midterms: 35% (Quiz and Essay paper 1)

Finals: 35% (Quiz and Essay paper 2)

Class participation: 30% (general attendance and engagement during group discussions)

The midterm and final exams both have two components: a quiz (in class) and an essay (take home paper).

The class participation grade is based on attendance as well as activity and preparedness during group / class discussions.

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Contact: Lucile.druet.kansaigaidai@gmail.com

The present syllabus (class # / contents / dates) will be completely fixed in January 2023, once the class schedule (days / time periods) is decided.