



JASP1140A/ UGEC1302A

JAPANESE CINEMA

FALL 2026 | THURS. 2:30—5:15 PM | ERB 803

Professor Matt Mewhinney

Film is regarded as an important medium for understanding culture and society. This course examines how representative works of Japanese cinema communicate fundamental aspects of Japanese culture and society as well as the human condition. Students learn how this communication is made possible through the art of cinematic form (i.e., mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, & sound), the common language shared among filmmakers around the world. The course introduces the basics of film analysis, giving students critical-thinking skills that will enable them both to see how Japanese cinema engages with world cinema and to understand how Japan—especially after the post-war—becomes a hub for myriad cultural flows. Taught in English.

