



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS (Japan 2 Week) Program, Summer 2022

BCOM 481 Topics: Japanese Cinema

Instructor: Dr. Jason Lyle Garrett

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course explores the cinema of Japan, which will in turn offer new perspectives on both cinema history and Japanese culture. From the inspirational works of Akira Kurosawa to the famous monster movies of Ishiro Honda, and from the subtle and poignant works of Yasujiro Ozu to the lyrical and intimate works of Hirokazu Kore-eda, students will study how the masters of Japanese cinema have influenced cinematic movements across the globe.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand Japan's contribution to world cinema.
2. Develop media literacy and film appreciation skills.
3. Improve analytical writing through film criticism.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

1. Kurosawa and the basics of film grammar.
2. Mizoguchi and the blending of narratives.
3. Honda and the atomic monster.
4. Ozu and the visual rhyme.
5. Kurosawa and the blending of genres.
6. Suzuki and the Japanese New Wave.
7. Obayashi and the demonic house cat.
8. Kore-eda and the structuring of absence.

5. Required Readings:

- [A Short Guide to Writing about Film](#) by Timothy Corrigan, a free PDF of the 7th edition can be provided by the instructor if requested.
- A collection of online resources and essays, also provided by the instructor.

6. Graded Assignments:

Over the course of the two weeks, students will submit four written works (hand-written or typed) that discuss, critique and/or analyze the films viewed in class. Each submitted work will grow in length and complexity and eventually incorporate the student's personal experiences in Japan. Following the descriptions provided in the textbook, students will submit:

1. The Screening Report - 2 paragraphs
2. The Movie Review - 3 paragraphs
3. The Critical Essay - 4 paragraphs
4. The Theoretical Essay – 5 paragraphs

The first three allow for a bit of flexibility, for the student can choose which of the screened films to report on, review, analyze, compare/contrast, etc. In short the student can craft his or her own thesis. However, the final theoretical essay must be on the student's understanding of a Japanese ideology, as gained through his or her personal experience of Japanese cinema, cities, cuisine, culture, conversations, etc. The student's experience of Japan is the main focus of this essay, but it must also be a discussion of two Japans: the Japan as experienced through cinema, and the Japan has experienced directly through the senses. The mediated, narrative-driven, screen version of Japan versus the non-mediated, unscripted, real version of Japan.

Each paragraph should equal approximately 8-10 sentences. A provided rubric will illustrate how the essays will be graded. Each essay is worth 25% of the student's final grade.

A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: 0-59%

8. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

9. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be

aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

10. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins (270-745-5396 / deborah.wilkins@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at

270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.