This course is designed for upper-level students in Asian Studies, History, or Religious Studies. Prior engagement of Japanese culture, or of non-Abrahamic South Asian or East Asian philosophical traditions, is recommended.

General History 493/593 will use films, in conjunction with background lectures, readings and suggested works for further exploration, to examine facets of the Japanese historical experience. We will observe the ways in which individuals responded to their particular circumstances amid the broader currents of the challenges of the modern age. We will encounter a variety of experiences, and people embroiled in issues of personal identity amidst the demands of social and institutional structures.

The warfare and armed conflict that dominated Japan’s early twentieth century was an unusual historical phenomenon and merits particular attention. The broader historical background of the twentieth century is one of rapid industrialization, often harsh economic choices, debate over individual and national futures, significant political change and instability throughout East Asia, and the progressive breakdown of the Imperial and colonial world order.

The films will focus on the 1930s and 1940s. We will look at aspects of the impact of war on Japanese society, the second Sino-Japanese War and the experiences that continue to shape Sino-Japanese relations, and at some of the Pacific War. The year 1945 will receive particular attention. Two films will deal with the aftermath of war, short-term and long-term.

Theme. This course examines how people act in circumstances that are and are not of their own conscious choosing. The theme of Karma and Change is intended to focus that issue in a broader religious and philosophical framework, a world view that has been strongly influenced (though not exclusively) by East Asian Buddhist thought.

Karma, an Indian term, may be thought of the way or ways in which prior thoughts, words, and deeds exert an influence over, an effect upon, and shape, one’s present and one’s future. Karma can be both positive and negative. It has both mutable and immutable aspects. It may exercise shorter or longer-term effects. One’s own karma intersects with the karma of others. Karmic bonds are ever-present and wide-ranging. The concept of karma thus raises significant issues regarding autonomy, choice, and responsibility.

Another implicit theme of the course is the Buddhist notion of craving and desire as a central part of the human condition. Craving and desire for such things as survival; sex; a better life; belonging; continuity amid change; to help others; to use others; and for closure. The desire for permanence – which does not exist in a world of change – is an attachment to the impermanent that, while there may be times of happiness and satisfaction, also brings disappointment and the pain of "separation." Yet, rather than being pessimistic, this understanding is intended to enlighten one about the nature of reality, and thus provide a better perspective on the inevitable complications of human existence.
Evaluation: HIST 493 Undergraduate students.
1/ Attendance is required; 10% of course grade. More than two absences without good reason are grounds for failure in the course.
2/ A mid-term quiz, 11/03 (a study guide will be provided). 15% of course grade. It will focus on the films, and on the Johnston book, and also involve a take-home essay.
3/ One essay (double-spaced, 12-pt. font), at least 1400 words, that explores issues and themes addressed in one of the films seen through 10/22. This is an essay, and not a film review. The essay is due no later than 11/10. 15% of course grade.
4/ A term paper (30% of the course grade), no less than 3000 words. The paper is to be double spaced, 12-point font, foot-noted or end-noted, have an acceptable bibliography, and printed on one side of the paper (web-based sources are not acceptable unless specifically permitted by the instructor). It is due no later than 11/24. Late papers may be penalized. The topic of the term paper and sources to be used must be discussed with instructor no later than 11/05.
5/ A final exam, in exam week (30% of course grade). A study guide will be provided.

HIST 593 Graduate students:
1/ Attendance is required, 10% of course grade. More than two absences without good reason are grounds for failure in the course.
2/ One essay (double-spaced, 12-pt. font), no shorter than 1500 words, that explores issues and themes addressed in one of the films seen through 11/03. This is an essay, and not a film review. Due no later than 11/10. 15% of course grade.
4/ A final exam in exam week (30% of course grade). A study guide will be provided. Most emphasis will be on the Cook book.
5/ A term paper (30% of the course grade), no less than 4000 words. The paper is to be double spaced, 12-point font, end-noted, have an acceptable bibliography (web-based sources are not acceptable unless specifically permitted by the instructor); due by 12/1. Late papers may be penalized. The topic of the term paper and sources to be used must be discussed with the instructor by 11/05.

Time allocation: In order to engage this course successfully students should expect to spend at least eight hours per week outside of scheduled contact hours engaging the readings, reviewing films, and preparing assignments.

Texts: IENAGA Saburô The Pacific War, 1931-1945.

Readings and Viewings: Other readings will be suggested. Some will be placed on reserve in the Knight Library. These are designed to provide an initial guide to topics, and may be of assistance when you are considering the topic of your term paper. Films viewed in class will also be placed on course reserve in the Knight Library, and may be viewed there.

ANTICIPATED LECTURE AND FILM SCHEDULE
09/29  Course Introduction;
        Documentary: Riben Guizi 日本鬼子 (Japanese Devils) [DVD 01419, 160 mins.].

10/06  Lecture(s): Transformations in East Asia; Modernization; International Relations.

        Film: Akai Tenshi 赤い天使 (Red Angel). [DVD 01506, 95 mins].

10/20  Film: Ningen no jôken 人間の条件 (The Human Condition). [DVD 00485, 177 mins.]

        Film: Iwôjima kara no tegami 硫黄島からの手紙 (Letters From Iwo Jima ) [DVD 01736, 140 mins].

11/03  Mid-term quiz.
        Film: Kamiya Etsuko no Seishun 紙屋悦子の青春 (Kamiya Etsuko’s Youth) [DVD 01790, 111 mins].

        Film: Kanzô sensei 肝臓先生 (Dr. Akagi), [DVD 00477, 128 mins.]

        Last date to submit film essay.

        Film: Guizi Laile 鬼子来了 (Devils on the Doorstep) [DVD 00709, 140 mins].

        Last date for graduate students to submit book review.

11/24  Lecture: Post-Surrender.
        Film: Setouchi yakyû seinendan 瀬戸内野球青年団 (MacArthur’s Children) (VT 00671, 115 mins.)

        Last date to submit term paper.

12/01  Lecture: The Lingering Past.
        Film: Gunki hatameku moto ni 軍旗たためて下に (Under the Flag of the Rising Sun) [DVD 01056, 96 mins].

        Last date for graduate students to submit term paper.

12/08  FINAL EXAM, 1900 in regular classroom.
READING FOR ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

Readings from the textbooks (Cook and Ienaga) are required and examinable.

09/29  Course Introduction;
       Documentary: Riben Guizi 日本鬼子 (Japanese Devils) [DVD 01419, 160 mins.].

       Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 1 and 2.

10/06  Lecture(s): Transformations in East Asia; Modernization; International Relations.
       Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 50-63, 71-75, 77-99, 407-411.
       Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 1, 2 and 3.

       Film: Akai Tenshi 赤い天使 (Red Angel). [DVD 01506, 95 mins].

       Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 23-40, 127-134, 203-213.
       Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 3, 4, and 5.

10/20  Film: Ningen no jōken 人間の条件 (The Human Condition). [DVD 00485, 177 mins.]

       Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 40-47, 145-167, 199-213, 462-468.
       Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 3, 4, 5 and 9.

       Film: Iwōjima kara no tegami 硫黄島からの手紙 (Letters From Iwo Jima) [DVD 01736, 140 mins].

       Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 7 and 9.

11/03  Mid-term quiz.
       Kamiya Etsuko no Seishun 紙屋悦子の青春 (Kamiya Etsuko’s Youth) [DVD 01790, 111 mins].

       Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 213-220, 305-354.
Lecture: Some Wartime Mentality.
Film: Kanzō sensei 肝臟先生 (Dr. Akagi), [DVD 00477, 128 mins.]

Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 6 and 10.

Last date to submit film essay.

Lecture: Living Under Occupation.
Film: Guizi Laile 鬼子来了 (Devils on the Doorstep) [DVD 00709, 140 mins].

Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 99-120.
Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapters 8, 9.

Last date for graduate students to submit book review.

Lecture: Post-Surrender.
Film: Setouchi yakyû seinendan 瀬戸内野球青年団 (MacArthur’s Children) (VT 00671, 115 mins.)

Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 231-240, 373-399, 468-469, 477-478.
Saburō Ienaga, The Pacific War, chapter 11.

Last date to submit term paper.

Lecture: The Lingering Past.
Film: Gunki hatameku moto ni 軍旗はたまく下に (Under the Flag of the Rising Sun) [DVD 01056, 96 mins].

Haruko Cook and Theodore Cook, Japan at War, 121-127, 267-281, 343-353, 407-411, 420-479.

Last date for graduate students to submit term paper.

Final Exam, 1900 in regular classroom.
TERM PAPER GUIDELINES - *Japanese History Through Film*.

1. The term paper is worth 35% of your course grade. As such, and as the major piece of work by which your understanding of material relevant to the course can be demonstrated, the paper should show thorough acquaintance with and thoughtful engagement of material. The conclusion you may come to, supported by material you have presented in the body of the paper, is your own (if, however, you present a conclusion that argues the equivalent of the earth being flat, the reader may become quite disconcerted!).

2. The term paper is not based upon a film, although your choice of topic, theme or problem that you take up in the paper naturally may be inspired by an issue that attracted your interest while watching one or more of the films, or some of the reading that you may have been doing in conjunction.

3. You need to be attentive to such things as:
   a/ overall structure - a good introduction stating the goal, problem or question; a middle portion (which can be broken down into sub-sections); and a conclusion.
   b/ realize that the reader is most interested in seeing you develop your thoughts and arguments, rather than being apprised too directly of others' thoughts, i.e. use direct quotation sparingly; and under all circumstances avoid the dreaded "P" (plagiarism) problem (double check that you have a fire-wall between your notes and summaries from sources and your final product).

4. Bibliography: At the minimum you should be utilizing four sources that are not textbooks, and that are appropriate for academic subjects. You may find material on the Internet, but at this stage the material dealing with Japanese history is fairly elementary, and often not material that has gone through the process of peer review that usually accompanies the publication of scholarly works: so, **DO NOT use internet material unless the instructor has agreed that your use of specific material from the Internet is acceptable.**

5. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman 12 point font, employ either foot-notes or end-notes, and have a bibliography.

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HIST 410 Japan: Karma and Change.

Film Report.

There are several ways in which a film report might be written. In this course, the emphasis is on your writing a thoughtful report that demonstrates clear familiarity with the film. But, please remember: the film report is NOT a film review that deals with directors, cinema technique, and suchlike; the class is not one on film or film history (a report that forgets this is always headed for an “F” grade).

The report could emphasize a particular theme that comes through in the film, or even a couple of themes. You could also reflect upon the film and discuss some broader issues related to Japanese history that have come up in readings or in other films (however, the report should not be a comparison of films). The least desirable film report, which being such is not to be submitted (this too would head towards an ‘F’ grade), is one that provides a synopsis of the film – after all, we’ve all seen it.

Feel free to inform your report with ideas and general information that you may have encountered in the readings, although this is not required in order to write a successful report.