This course deals with theories of time, history and representation, making those ideas and problems concrete through a study of the way in which history in Japan has been mediated by the cinema. It explores the "timefulness" of cinematic images without assuming their automatic relation to the world or dismissing films for their invention, compression, and elision of facts about the past. In what ways can a film constitute a form of historical narration? Does the medium cause us to rethink existing historiography? What is the history of the medium itself? And is "history" the only way in which films enfold time? A close reading of a wide range of films produced in and about Japan in tandem with literary and historiographic texts, critical writings on time, images, and national history, and the like will highlight the historicity and history of both film and Japan. All readings are in English; no knowledge of Japanese is required. This course seeks to focus attention on the nexus between audio-visual media and historical studies.

**Course Requirements:** regular attendance and participation in class discussion and at film screenings (as noted below), a paper proposal and bibliography, a final paper (10-15pp).

**Readings Available at the Seminary Co-op:**
- William Guynn, *Writing History in Film* (Routledge, 2006).
- Donald Keene, *Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers* (Columbia, 1971).

**Recommended:**

**Readings not listed above are available on Chalk.**

**Week I March 29**

**Introduction**

In-Class Screening of: Kurosawa Akira, *The Men Who Tread on Tiger’s Tales (Tora no o wo fumu otokotachi)*, 1945.

**Readings:**

**Week II April 5**

**History Per Se (Medieval Japan)**

**Readings:**
- Marc Bloch, *The Historian’s Craft*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*

Heike Monogatari (McCullough translation, selections)

**Monday (4/3) Screening:**
Mizoguchi Kenji, *New Tales of the Taira Clan* (aka *Taira Clan Saga, Shin heike monogatari*), 1955

**Week III April 12**

*Film and History (The Warring States Period)*

*Readings:*
Robert Rosenstone, *History on Film, Film on History*

**Monday (4/10) Screening:**
Kinugusa Teinosuke, *Gate of Hell (Jigoku mon)*, 1953

**Week IV April 19**

*Time and Film and History (Tokugawa Japan)*

*Readings:*
William James, "The Perception of Time," in *Principles of Psychology* (Holt, 1890); vol. 1, 605-642
Henri Bergson, extract from *Matter and Memory* (Zone Books, 1991)

*Recommended: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, [Ch. 1, 2, 3]*

**Monday (4/17) Screening:**
Shinoda Masahiro, *Double Suicide (Shinjuten no amijima)*, 1969

**Week V April 26**

*Self Sacrifice and National Identity (Jidai-geki [Period Films] and Tokugawa Japan)*

*Readings:*
Donald Keene, *Chushingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers*
Peter High, "On the Eve of a New War," in *The Imperial Screen: Japanese Film Culture in the Fifteen Year War, 1931-1945* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003)

*Recommended* Ienaga Saburō, *The Pacific War 1931-1945: A Critical Perspective on Japan's Role in World War II, [Ch. 1, 2, 3]*

**Monday (4/24) Screening:**
Mizoguchi Kenji, *The 47 Ronin, Part 2 (Genroku chūshingura, 2)*, 1942

**Week VI May 3**

*Continuity / Discontinuity (The Meiji Restoration)*

*Readings:*
Marnie Hughes-Warrington, *History Goes to the Movies: Studying History on Film,* [Introduction, Ch. 2 "Genre", Conclusion]

*Recommended* Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, [Ch. 4, 5, 6]*
Recommended: Marius Jansen, Sakamoto Ryōma and the Meiji Restoration

Monday (5/1) Screening:
Kuroki Kazuo, The Assassination of Ryōma (Ryōma ansatsu), 1974

Week VII May 10
Memories of War
Readings:
William Guynn, Writing History in Film
Recommended: Ienaga Saburō, The Pacific War 1931-1945: A Critical Perspective on Japan's Role in World War II, [Ch. 9, 10, 11]
Recommended: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, [Ch. 12, 13]
Monday (5/8) Screening:
Fukasaku Kinji, Under the Flag of the Rising Sun (Gunki hatameku moto ni), 1972

Week VIII May 17
Histories of the Present: War Propaganda
[*Paper Proposal and Bibliography Due*]
Readings:
Marnie Hughes-Warrington, History Goes to the Movies: Studying History on Film, [Ch. 6 “Documentary” and Ch. 7 “Propaganda”]
Recommended: Ienaga Saburō, The Pacific War 1931-1945: A Critical Perspective on Japan's Role in World War II, [Ch. 6, 7, 8]
Monday (5/15) Screening:
Yamamoto Kajirō, The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya (Hawai Mare-oki kaisen), 1942

Week IX May 24
Modernism / Modernization / Modernity
Readings:
Robert Rosenstone, History on Film, Film on History
Recommended: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present, [Ch. 14, 15, 16, 17]
Monday (5/22) Screening:
Honda Ishirō, Godzilla (Gojira), 1954

Week X May 31
Special Screening
*Term Paper due: Tuesday, June 5*