

Culture and Representation			
Undergraduate / Graduate	Undergraduate	Registration Code	0055422
Course Category	Arts Liberal	Credits	2.0
Term (Semester) / Day / Period	G-II (1st year, Spring Semester) / Fri. / 4 (14:45~16:15)		
Instructor	MA Ran		
Contact e-mail of the Instructor	ma.ran.d8@f.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp		
<p>●Goals of the Course In this disorienting, globalizing world, the lives and existence of human beings are to great extent defined by the urban conditions they are enmeshed within and contending with. This course approaches major urban issues in modern societies by engaging with a wide spectrum of cultural texts drawn from films and other types of visual/image works such as photography, transmedia art projects/installations and anime.</p> <p>Our case studies pay particular attention to the social contexts and cities in contemporary East Asia. However, the ‘city’ will not be simply explored as the theme or ambience featured in these texts. Following our adventure of ‘entering’ the city as cultural texts (such as Tokyo, Osaka, Nagasaki/Hiroshima, Beijing, Taipei, and Seoul), with the socio-historical dimensions of urban space theoretically surveyed, we shall futher direct our attention to the various types of urbanites and their mental life. We pay specific attention to the experiences of living in the city as an Other—in terms of our national, cultural, and gender identities, but also regarding how the cities and metropolitans both allure us and alienate us, defining who we are.</p>			
<p>●Objectives of the Course Overall, departing from our observations upon Asian metropolises/societies, students are expected to debate and discuss cinematic/visual/cultural texts in relation to the urban condition of local, regional and global scales. Through the lectures, students are expected to learn how to approach and critique the cultural space of cities by utilizing key concepts drawn from various theoretical perspectives such as cultural studies, visual culture, and sociology.</p>			
<p>●Course Content or Plan NOTE: this plan is tentative; for the finalized schedule and weekly readings please refer to the syllabus handed out on April 15th; screenings would be made available online when in-person meeting is not possible. For the zoom meeting information, write to the teacher before the first lecture.</p> <p>Week 1 INTRODUCTION (April 15th) Week 2 A CRITIQUE OF MODERNITY Week 3 CITY AS CULTURAL TEXT Week 4 FLÂNEUR: ROAMING IN THE CITY (Paris/Shanghai/Tokyo)</p> <p>Films for Reference: <i>Midnight Asia: Eat, Dance, Dream</i> (Tokyo episode), Netflix Original Documentary, 2022</p> <p>Week 5 TOKYO, OR ELSEWHERE Films for Reference: <i>Ghost in the Shell</i>, Dir. OSHII Mamoru, 1995 <i>Swallowtail Butterfly</i>, Dir. IWAI Shunji, 2008</p> <p>Week 6 THE DISAPPEARING CITY: RUINS & MONUMENTS I (Hiroshima/Nagasaki) Film for Reference: <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i>, Dir. Alain RESNAIS, 1959</p> <p>Week 7 THE DISAPPEARING CITY: RUINS & MONUMENTS II (Beijing/Shanghai), with in-class screening</p> <p>Week 8 HAUNTING CITIES: THE UNCANNY & THE GHOSTLY Films for Reference (TBA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIVING AS “THE OTHER” IN THE CITY I: Debating Zainichi</p>			

Week 9 SCREENING: **Pacchigi!** 『パッチギ!』 Dir. Kazuyuki Izutsu, 2005

Week 10 LECTURE+DISCUSSION

LIVING AS “THE OTHER” IN THE CITY II: Half? /Whole?

Week 11 SCREENING: **HAFU: THE MIXED-RACE EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN**/ハーフ, Dir. Megumi Nishikura, Lara Perez Takagi, 2013; **WHOLE**, short, Dir. Bilal Kawazoe, 2021. [<https://www.whole-movie.com/>]

Week 12 LECTURE+DISCUSSION

Week 13 LIVING AS ‘THE OTHER’ IN THE CITY III: Diaspora & Cinema

Week 14 GROUP PRESENTATION (details TBA)

Week 15 THESIS WORKSHOP

●Course Prerequisites and Related Courses

This survey course is basically open to all undergraduate students who have demonstrated certain interest in cinema and other visual medium, and have the competency in reading and analyzing undergraduate-level cultural texts in English. Preferably the students could already use English-language skillfully, and are prepared to write in English for short essays and to present in English.

●Course Evaluation Method and Criteria

40% Attendance + Participation (contribution to class discussions/presentation/Perusal Reading)

30% Reading Journals (15%x2)/300-word each/Details TBA.

30% Final Paper/Details TBA

NOTE: 3 absences (three times or more), including those for **in-class screenings** without proper evidence provided equals FAIL. Policy for the withdrawal applies, but please notify the teacher as soon as possible.

●Study Load (Self-directed Learning Outside Course Hours)

Pending on the English ability: 2-2.5 hours per/week for the reading; longer if there are films for reference (optional, if they are not indicated as a “Screening”).

●How to Respond to Questions

Email, Online meeting via appointments, and Perusal (social reading platform).

●Notice for Students

Plagiarism: A writer who presents the ideas of words of another as if they were the writer’s own (that is, without proper citation) commits plagiarism. Plagiarism is not tolerable in this course or at Nagoya University. You should avoid making quotes or drawing on figures from nowhere—you must provide sources of reference for quotation and/or citations you use in the paper. This applies to images and media clips as well. Failure to observe this would risk being charged of plagiarism.

[All assignments/papers will be checked with professional software]

●Message from the Instructor

“Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else.”

– Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

When we could only meet online in our zoom avatars at a time when overseas trips—either leaving home or returning home—become extremely difficult, promises about trips to the cities we love and desire seem like a cruel joke. But I hope we can explore the in/visial cities together with the imaginations offered by films, anime and videos—to understand our own identities and positionings in the world better.

Textbook	A compilation of readings(digitized)
Reference Book	A compilation of readings(digitized)
Reference Website for this Course	For any course-related questions, please refer to our Persusall page and/or write to Ma Ran: ma.ran.d8@f.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp