Syllabus Spring 2012
Japanese Cinema, 1960s
IDSEM UG1679
March 19-May 7
Wednesday, 12:30-3:15

The 1960s has been called the golden age of Japanese cinema by many. We will view three internationally critically acclaimed films from the period: Shinoda Masahiro, “Double Suicide,” Kurosawa Akira, “Yojimbo,” and Teshigahara Hiroshi, “Woman in the Dunes.” “Woman in the Dunes” won the 1964 Cannes Special Jury Prize, “Yojimbo” was remade by Sergio Leone as “A Fistful of Dollars” in 1964, starring Clint Eastwood, and “Double Suicide” won the prestigious Kinema Jumpo "Number One" prize for both Best Picture and Best Actress in 1970. The course will focus equally on formal film syntax and the “message” of the films. We will be attentive to the cultural and historical context in which the films were first released to explore what these films are saying about postwar Japanese art, culture and society and how they are saying it.

Course Requirements:
Attendance and participation 20%
Presentation 20%
3 papers 60%

This class meets once a week for only seven sessions. Any unexcused absence will negatively impact your grade. Late papers will be accepted, but progressively penalized for tardiness.

Papers: Take one scene from each film and using a formal syntactical analysis, show how the film “signifies” its message in that scene. Papers should be approximately 3 pages in length.

Statement on Plagiarism
Plagiarism means: presenting as your own someone else’s words, ideas, opinions, and/or argument. You must be sure to cite your sources, include a bibliography, and use quotation marks when you incorporate another person’s words or language verbatim. This includes buying a paper! Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action(s).
Students are required to bring a copy of the assigned readings to class.

**Required Books**

For sale at Bluestockings, 172 Allen Street between Stanton and Rivington – (1 block south of Houston and 1st Avenue).


The rest of the readings are on Blackboard, and listed below in the order that we will read them.


**Schedule**


2. Wednesday, March 28: How To Read a Film
   In class: Watch *Yojimbo* (end of class)

3. Wednesday, April 4: *Yojimbo*
   Short lecture: Edo Japan, the samurai in history, versus postwar Japan
   Read: Prince, *The Warrior’s Camera*, 3-31; Gluck, “The Past in the Present”; (blackboard);
   Student Presentation 1
   Paper One Due

4. Wednesday, April 11: *Double Suicide*
   In class: Watch clips of puppet theater; watch *Double Suicide*.

5. Wednesday, April 18: *Double Suicide 2*
   Read: Brett de Bary “Not Another Double Suicide”; Sakai, “Supplement” (both on blackboard)
   Student Presentation 2
   Paper Two Due

6. Wednesday, April 25: *Woman in the Dunes*
   In class: Watch *Woman in the Dunes*
   Read: Harper, “Teshigahara Hiroshi”; Barshay, “Postwar Social and Political Thought” (excerpts); Pollack, “The Ideology of Science”; Althusser, “Ideology and the State” (all on blackboard)

7. Wednesday, May 2: *Woman in the Dunes 2*
   No new readings
   Student Presentation 3
   Paper Three Due