Course Description:
This course surveys the cultural history of Tokyo through literature, film, art, anime and architecture and living spaces. Taking as our point of departure the renaming of the capital from Edo to Tokyo (Eastern Capital) in 1870, we will explore the phoenix-like cycles of destruction and reconstruction through the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923), the firebombing of the city during WWII, and other significant changes in the cultural topography and lived experiences of the city. Particular emphasis will be given to contextualizing the classroom content with field trips to museums and historic neighborhoods. There will also be short trip to Kyoto as a study in contrasts with the (post)modernity and megacity scale of Tokyo.

Required Texts:
1. KAWABATA Yasunari, Scarlet Gang of Asakusa, (novel, 1933)
2. Natsume SOSEKI Sanshiro (novel, 1906)
3. TANIZAKI Junichiro, Naomi (1924)
4. WORRALL and SOLOMON, 21st Century Tokyo
5. Additional readings will be available in a Course Reader

Films:
GOSHO Heinosuke, The Neighbor’s Wife and Mine (1931)
HAPTAS, John and SAMUELSON, Kristine, Tokyo Waka (2012)
HONDA Ishiro, Godzilla (1954)
OTOMO Katsuhiro, Akira (1988)
OZU Yasujiro, Tokyo Story (1953)
TAKEUCHI, Hiroshi, Train Man (TV series, 2005)

Course objectives:
- To investigate the cultural history of Tokyo from its days as the capital of the Tokugawa shogunate to its contemporary incarnation as a metropolis at the forefront of globalization and the information society.
- To study a representative selection of texts in literature, art, film, anime, architecture, and other historical materials; in the process we will become familiar with the methods for analyzing different cultural and urban forms; to develop critical thinking and writing skills as students in the humanities

Course requirements and policies:
Grading is based on regular attendance and participation (20 points), two short papers of 4-5 pages (20 points each), and a final essay of 10-12 pages (40 points). The two short papers will be assigned with a choice of questions and will require you to incorporate the readings covered in class into your own argument. The final paper will be a research paper with the topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor.
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Neo-Tokyo and the Networked Future</td>
<td>June 30 OTOMO Katsuhiro, <em>Akira</em>&lt;br&gt;July 1 TAKEUCHI, <em>Train Man (Densha Otoko)</em>&lt;br&gt;July 2 HAPTAS and SAMUELSON, <em>Tokyo Waka</em> (film)&lt;br&gt;July 3 Field trip to Kyoto&lt;br&gt;July 4 Field trip to Kyoto&lt;br&gt;July 5 Final Papers Due</td>
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