

Department of English & Writing Studies  
Film Studies Program

Film 2164A (001)  
Animation / Anime  
Fall 2023

Antirequisites: Film Studies 2198A/B, if taken in 2016-2017; Film Studies 2198A/B, if taken in 2014-2015.

Course Description

This course explores the power of animation as a form of audiovisual representation, with a particular emphasis on Japan. We will trace the intertwined history of film, television, video, and computer animation in Japan from its beginning to the present-day media mix that incorporates comic books, light novels, video games, and toys. Japanese anime franchises will be examined from the side of production, as industrial products and artistic expressions, and from the side of reception, as semiotic texts and as objects through which consumers construct their social lives. We will also explore the further dissemination of those franchises in various kinds of fan fiction and academic discourse, and as an aspect of Japanese "soft power" in North American popular culture.

All readings on the course are in English; no Japanese is required.

Objectives :

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- x Recognize and discuss the development and main themes and genres of Japanese media franchises, popularly known as anime. They will also be able to closely analyze the stylized mode of representation of anime texts and to develop arguments about their appeal to audiences in Japan and abroad. Students will also gain a broader appreciation of the history of East Asian popular culture and its presence in the contemporary world, including in their own histories of cultural consumption.

Course Materials

All required readings are posted to the class web site on Owl. There is no textbook for the class.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Attendance and participation (10%); in-class quizzes (10%); individual forum posts (20%); group projects (25%); final examination (35%).

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

### Additional Information

Penalties will be assessed for late work.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty

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