

Godzilla and Gundam: Japan's Pop Icons

Lecturer:

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I Outline:

Godzilla and Gundam are famous in the world as two of Japan's pop icons. Although the first film and anime were made a long time ago, why they continue attracting not only Japanese but also people in the world? Focusing on the directors' thought and the process of their making, we try to show the characteristics and their meanings in Japanese popular culture.

II Evaluation:

Class Attendance and Participation	50%
Mid-Term Papers (twice at least)	50%

III Course Materials:

Students are required to watch movies on DVD or via internet.

III Topics and Schedules:

1 Introduction What is the Godzilla? What is the Gundam?

Paying attention to Japanese Subcultures by the museums

*Godzilla Series movie 1954-2016

Overview of the movies from the first to latest

*Gundam Series anime program 1979-2017

Overview of the program from the first to latest

This class will focus on the works by Tomino Yoshiyuki

2 Godzilla: focusing on the First Godzilla movie (1954) (1)

Surveying the story of Godzilla in 1954

3 Godzilla: focusing on the First Godzilla movie (1954) (2)

The story---Godzilla as a metaphor of war

Born by the influence of the hydrogen bomb test

(Daigo Fukuryūmaru affair on March 1, 1954)

Professor Serizawa – relative person who were involved in the development of weapons for Japanese military??

4 behind the scene; who made Godzilla? and How?

Tanaka Hideyuki

Honda Ishiro

Tsuburaya Eiji

5 Modeling of Godzilla

Toshimitsu Teizo

Abe Wasuke

The meaning of the form of Godzilla

History of the Godzilla suits

6 Ultra Q and Ultraman; from movie to TV (Tsuburaya Production)

Overviewing the Ultraman series

Narita Toru's important role as a character and mechanic designer

7 What about Shin-Godzilla

Anno Hideaki, the anime director of “Evangelion”

Respects to the first Godzilla and reference to the Evangelion

8 Gundam: Overview of the outstanding TV program (1)

Introducing main episodes to survey the whole story

9 Gundam: Overview of the outstanding TV program (2)

Introducing main episodes to survey the whole story

10 Gundam: Overview of the outstanding TV program (3)

What makes the Gundam different from the robot animes before it?

Transformation from ‘Super Robot’ to ‘Real Robot.’

11 Who is Tomino Yoshiyuki?

Focusing on Tomino's thought

12 Continuation of Gundam in the 1980s

Z Gundam (1985)

Gundam ZZ (1986)

Char's counterattack (1988)

13 Gundam in 1990s

Gundam F91 (1991)

V Gundam (1993)

14 Escape from Gundam: from the recent works

Turn A Gundam (1999)

Gundam Recongista in G (2014)

15 Conclusion