

Miyazaki: Anime Legend His Life and Work

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1 Course Description

Hayao Miyazaki is Japan's and perhaps the world's greatest animation director of all time. The entertaining plots, compelling characters, and breathtaking animation in his films have earned him international renown from critics as well as public recognition within Japan.

In this course, we will examine the aesthetic, thematic, and historical characteristics of each of his films. What social conflicts inspired his work? Who were the bases of his characters? Whom did he inspire? Besides his films, we will also briefly examine his other works, including shorts and TV series.

The course is open to all interested students, no previous knowledge of Miyazaki or anime is assumed.

2 Course Requirements

- No more than 2 unexcused absences (university policy)
- Participate in discussions
- Midterm exam that tests your understanding of course material
- Final project presentation (very flexible in content)

3 Course Details

3.1 Lectures & Discussions

We will have short lectures on Miyazaki's life and influences during the time of the work we're about to see. In discussion, we will critically analyze the film we last saw and relate it to his life and the time period.

3.2 Midterm Exam (Oct 14)

This will be a closed everything midterm (okay, I'll let you bring a pencil) on the material covered in class up to this point. It will test students' knowledge of the background of the films seen so far as well as Miyazaki's beginnings. If you were in class every day, participated, and paid attention, then you will not need to study to do well. The questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer.

3.3 Final Project (Dec 2)

You will work alone, in pairs, or in larger groups to create a project on a topic of your choice. This project is quite flexible in content, but must be related to Miyazaki's life or work in some way. All project proposals must be confirmed by the instructor. There will be brief presentations on these projects during the last week of class.

4 Grading

- 10% Class participation
- 40% Midterm exam
- 50% Final project

This is a Pass/No Pass (P/N) course.

Grade	Percent
Pass	>70%
No Pass	<70%

5 Schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Topic
1	26-Aug	Introduction (Lecture) + Early Life (Lecture) + The Tale of the White Serpent (Film) + Lupin III (TV) + Future Boy Conan (TV)
2	2-Sep	NO CLASS (Labor day)
3	9-Sep	Breakthrough (Lecture) + Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro (Film) + Sherlock Hound (TV)
4	16-Sep	Warriors of the Wind (Lecture) + Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind (Film)
5	23-Sep	Studio Ghibli (Lecture) + Laputa: The Castle in the Sky (Film)
6	30-Sep	FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE Cultural Impact (Lecture) + My Neighbor Totoro (Film)
7	7-Oct	Flight (Lecture) + Kiki's Delivery Service (Film)
8	14-Oct	MIDTERM + Ghibli: The Miyazaki Temple (Documentary) + Nandarou (TV Spot) + Sora Iro no Tane (TV Spot)
9	21-Oct	Siege of Dubrovnik (Lecture) + Porco Rosso (Film) + On Your Mark (Short)
10	28-Oct	Japan's Best Picture (Lecture) + Princess Mononoke (Film)
11	4-Nov	Retirement? (Lecture) + Spirited Away (Film)
12	11-Nov	War and Peace (Lecture) + Howl's Moving Castle (Film)
13	18-Nov	Falling Out (Lecture) + Tales From Earthsea (Film)
14	25-Nov	Reunion (Lecture) + Ponyo (Film) + Mr. Dough and the Egg Princess (Short)
15	2-Dec	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS