

2015 OCHANOMIZU UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH

Open Seminar: Introduction to Japanese Culture III

Ghibli Studio's Two Different Axis:

Why is Ghibli Studio so important in Japanese Anime?

Thursday 6 August, 13:20-18:10

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13:20-14:50

Introduction: The first Japanese animation was arguably showed in 1917. Since then, Japanese animation has been influenced by European, American, and Chinese animation and developed its own way. In this session, a brief history of Japanese animation is explored and how Ghibli Studio was set up to aim for creating anti-Disney themed manga films.

15:00-16:30

How is so-called 'Japanese-ness' often represented in Ghibli's works? One of the key elements of the representations of 'Japanese-ness' may be something related to supernatural settings based on Shinto, Japanese Buddhism and /or spiritualism. This session discusses how Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata constructed 'Japanese-ness' in My Neighbor Totoro (1988) and Pom Poko (1994) and others through images of 'yokai' demons, 'kami' spirits, and ghosts.

16:40-18:10

The final session explores how Miyazaki and Takahata as political activists work for ecology and world peace in their activities.