



Asian Studies Lecture Winter 2008

Godzilla and Postwar Japanese Culture

William M. Tsutsui

Department of History chair, executive director of the Confucius Institute,
University of Kansas

Wednesday, 12 March
2:00 P.M.
238 HRCB



Film Screening **Gojira**

3:00 P.M.
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Gojira is the product of 1950s Japan, imbued with the traumatic atomic legacy of World War II. While U.S. nuclear testing isn't mentioned by name, it's implicit that *Gojira* is its unwitting creation.

1954 | directed by Ishirō Honda | Japan | Japanese | 98 minutes | black & white.

William M. Tsutsui is a specialist in the business, economic, and cultural history of twentieth-century Japan. Tsutsui is currently conducting research on the environmental history of modern Japan and the globalization of Japanese popular culture since World War II. His numerous publications include *A Companion to Japanese History* (2007), *In Godzilla's Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage* (with Michiko Ito, 2006), and *Godzilla on My Mind: Fifty Years of the King of Monsters* (2004). He received the 2005 William Rockhill Nelson Award for non-fiction and the 2000 John Whitney Hall Prize of the Association for Asian Studies. Tsutsui has served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society, as program chair of the Kansas Humanities Council, and he is director of the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia, which has offered professional development seminars on East Asian history and culture for K–12 teachers for the past eight years. He holds degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Princeton Universities.