

**Lectures 08-09**  
**The Development of Edo Woodblock Prints**  
**&**  
**Genre Prints: Actors, Courtesans, Sumo Wrestlers, and Landscapes**

**1. What are woodblock prints?**

- a. Named after the materials and technology used
- b. A brief rundown of the woodblock printing process

**2. General history of woodblock printing in Japan**

- a. From China in 8<sup>th</sup> century, but developed differently
- b. Originally monochrome for book illustrations
- c. Stylistically similar to Japanese-style painting (*yamato-e*)

**3. Particulars of Edo Woodblock Prints**

- a. By early 1700s, market for single-sheet prints rises, esp. in Edo
- b. Technological advances to cope with mass production
- c. The development of multi-colored prints from mid-1700s
  - Suzuki Harunobu (1725-70) and *benizuri-e*
  - *nishiki-e* → *ukiyo-e*

**4. The Business of Ukiyo-e**

- a. Artist, publisher, carver, printer
- b. Government censors

**4. Representative Genres and Artists (Wednesday's session)**

- a. Toshusai Sharaku (active 1794-95) and his Kabuki actor prints
- b. Kitagawa Utamaro and his *bijin* (beautiful women) prints
- c. Sumo Wrestlers
- d. Landscapes and views of Edo
  - Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1824)
  - Andô Hiroshige (1797-1858)