

Kenji Mizoguchi's *Life of Oharu* and Ihara Saikaku's *Life of an Amorous Woman* provide differing accounts of the life of merchant/courtesan woman during the Edo period. Based on your knowledge of the status of women during the period (from the readings) how would you account for these differences? What kind of picture of women do these accounts portray and what conclusions can you draw about women during the period? (Keep in mind the status and classes of the women!)