

**LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY
15.269**

Class #5: Wednesday 21 February 2001

See:

Masayuki Sudo, *Shall We Dance?* (film; showing Tuesday 2/20, 7 pm, E51-145)

Study Questions:

1. Early in *Shall We Dance?*, the narrator explains that Western-style ballroom dancing is a suspect activity in Japanese culture. Does the film make clear why that might be the case? Can you think of similar taboos in the West?
2. How would you characterize Mr. Sugiyama's workplace and colleagues, and his relationship to both?
3. Can we speak of a "romance" between Mr. Sugiyama and Mai? What do they represent, individually and as a pair, for all the other characters in the film?