



北京理工大学学术学分课程

BIT Academic Credit Courses Program

**ART9651 - SCREENING MODERN CHINA:
CHINESE CULTURE AND HISTORY THROUGH FILMS**
Syllabus

July. 1 - July. 19, 2024

Term Duration: July. 1 - July. 19, 2024

Credit Points: 4

Level: Postgraduate

Instructor Name: TBA

Home Institution: Beijing Institute of Technology

Lecture Hour: 15:40-18:40

Course Description

The course offers a survey of Chinese cinema including mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong from the past to the present. Equal emphasis will be laid on narrative themes, cinematic techniques, and cultural background as well as a clue to China's rich culture, values, and history. We will screen a selection of internationally acclaimed Chinese films and place each film in historical context, considering both the aesthetic form and the socio-political content of the film. Rather than following a strict film historiography, this course will examine the cinemas of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in light of several topics such as cultural revolution; industry and censorship; cultural translatability. This course examines questions and issues related to communism, nationalism, cultural conflict, historiography, genres, and directorial styles; at the same time, it addresses the cultural politics of globalization, identity, nationality, and gender formation as embodied in filmic texts.

Course Aims

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. gain cultural knowledge of China through the films in recent Chinese history;
2. understand the evolution of Chinese cinema and explain the background to these developments in cultural, literary and historical context;
3. learn how to critically “read” a movie and appreciate the elements that make up the visual and aural languages of films;
4. demonstrate the ability to do comparative reading of some important Chinese literary texts of the modern and contemporary periods;
5. understand how film represents the different cultural orientations in different periods in China;
6. understand how culture, race, gender, and class affect individual and collective identities;
7. develop critical reading, writing, speaking, and collaborative learning skills;

Language of Instruction

English

Required Textbook

Berry, Chris (2003), *Chinese Films in Focus*, London: BFI Publication

Berry, Chris (2008), *Chinese Films in Focus II*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan

Lu, Sheldon Hsiao-peng (ed.) (1997), *Transnational Chinese Cinemas: Identity, Nationhood, Gender*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press

Stokes, Lisa Odham (2007), *Historical Dictionary of Hong Kong Cinema*, Scarecrow Press

Zhang, Yingjin & Xiao, Zhiwei (eds.) (1998), *Encyclopedia of Chinese Film*, London: Routledge

Reading materials will be provided by the lecturer.

Course Hours

This course requires 48 hours of contact including 42 hours of lectures and one 6-hour field trip. Lectures are from Monday to Friday.

Prerequisite Course

Students are expected to have a thorough knowledge of all materials covered in an introductory course in contemporary Chinese history and culture.

Course Schedule

Week	Day	Chapter	Topic	Assignment/ Notes
Week 1	Day 1	Introduction to Modern Chinese Film History	Chinese Cinema: Yesterday and Today	On going assignment: Final Essay
	Day 2	Film Language	<i>Crows and Sparrows</i> Allegory on a Historical Threshold	Discussion and Presentation: The allegorical expressiveness in modern film
	Day 3	Film Language	<i>Big Shot's funeral</i> Performing a Post-modern Cinema of Attractions	Further Reading: New Year's Films: Chinese Entertainment Cinema in a Globalized Cultural Market
	Day 4	Film industry and Cultural Revolution	<i>Hibiscus Town</i> Cultural Revolution	Discussion and Presentation: the influence of cultural revolution on film producing
	Day 5	Film industry and Cultural Revolution	<i>No Man's Land</i> Industry and Censorship	Discussion and Presentation: The development of film industry
Week 2	Day 6	National Unity and Cultural Migrancy	<i>Farewell My Concubine</i> National Myth and City Memories	Further Reading: Walking Into and Out of the Spectacle: China's Earliest Film Scene.
	Day 7	National Unity and Cultural Migrancy	<i>Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</i> Cultural Migrancy and Translatability	Further Reading: The cultural migrancy
	Day 8	Globalization and Identity	<i>To Live</i> Idealism and Identity in Chinese History of Revolution	Further Reading: The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception.
	Day 9	Globalization and Identity	<i>Flowers of Shanghai</i> Visualising Ellipses and Absence	Case study
	Day 10	Industrial Visit		
Week 3	Day 11	Globalization, Cultural Cognition and Identity	<i>King of Comedy</i> Golden Age of Hong Kong Comedy Films	Discussion and Presentation: the evolution of Hongkong film and culture
	Day 12	Globalization, Cultural Cognition and Identity	<i>Yi Yi</i> Reflections on Reflexive Modernity in Taiwan	Discussion and Presentation: the evolution of Taiwan film and culture
	Day 13	Globalization, Cultural Cognition and Identity	<i>Touch of Zen</i> Action in Martial Arts Movies	Final essay due
	Day 14	Reading Assignment Presentations		
	Day 15	Group Presentation		

Note: Students will be notified if the schedule of the field trip changes according to the situation.

Grading Policy

Method	Percentage
Essay	50%
Presentation	40%
Attendance	10%
Total	100%

Essay: The essay, to be submitted in class, should be 1500 words in length (with a variance of +/- 10%) and must adhere to either APA 7th or Harvard referencing styles.

Presentation: Select a topic of your choice. Please note that all members are expected to participate in the presentation, and individual grades will be assigned.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all course sessions punctually. Absences will impact the attendance grade. We will have some case studies, topic discussion and group discussion in class and the performance will be considered as partial attendance points or bonus.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is not only a fundamental part of learning and teaching, but also a core value that this course embraces. Behaviors of academic dishonesty, as outlined hereinafter, are unacceptable and will be penalized:

- a) Plagiarism where students present work for assessment, publication or otherwise that is not their own, without appropriate attribution or reference to the original source. Plagiarism can include:
 - i) paraphrasing or copying published and unpublished work without a reference;
 - ii) adopting the ideas or concepts of others, including the structure of an existing analysis without due acknowledgement by way of reference to the original work or source.
- b) Collusion, where students present work as independent work when it has in fact been produced in whole or in part with others unless prior permission for joint or collaborative work has been given by the Course Coordinator. Collusion can include:
 - i) a student inappropriately assisting with or accepting assistance with the production of an assessment task;
 - ii) submitting work which is the same or substantially similar as another student's work for the same assessment task.
- c) Cheating, where a student acts in such a way as to seek to gain unfair advantage or assist another student to do so. Cheating can include:

- i) submitting falsified, copied or improperly obtained data relating to results of practicum, field trips or other work as if they were genuine; submitting an assessment task with the intention of deceiving or misleading the instructor about the student's contribution to the work;
 - ii) submitting an assessment task written or answered for the student by another person or which the student has copied from another person;
 - iii) submitting the same or a substantially similar piece of work for assessment in two different courses (except in accordance with approved study and assessment schemes);
 - iv) a student falsely indicating that they have been present at an activity where attendance is required;
 - v) completing an assessment task outside the conditions specified for that task.
- d) Cheating in Examinations means engaging in dishonest practice or breaching the rules regarding examinations, which can include:
 - i) communicating in any way during an examination with any person who is not an examination supervisor inside or outside the examination venue;
 - ii) giving or accepting assistance from any person who is not an examination supervisor whilst in the examination venue;
 - iii) reading, copying from or otherwise using another student's work in an examination or knowingly allowing a student to do so;
 - iv) possessing, referring to or having access to any material or device containing information directly or indirectly related to the subject matter under examination, other than that explicitly approved by the Course Coordinator;
 - v) acquiring, or attempting to acquire, possess or distribute examination materials or information without approval;
 - vi) permitting another person to attend an examination on a student's behalf or attending an examination on behalf of another student;
- e) Other dishonest acts including but not limited to:
 - i) altering or falsifying any document or record for the purposes of gaining academic advantage;
 - ii) offering or giving money or any item or service to a University staff member or any other person to gain academic advantage for the student or another person;
 - iii) inventing references.