

CHIN357.01

TOPICS IN CHINESE CINEMA—

THE NEW WAVES

Winter 2012

Instructor: Claire Huot

Lecture times: Tuesday & Thursday, 15:30 – 16:45

Lab (film screenings): Tuesday, 17:00 – 19:50

Room: EDC 280 (room change requested)

Office hours: Tues & Thurs, 13:00-13:45; and by appointment: chuot@ucalgary.ca

Office: Craigie Hall, C 104

Phone: 403-220-6589

Description: The course will focus on the filmic production of Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan cinema since the advent of the New Waves in the 1980s. The course will also provide the rudiments of Chinese cinematographic history. Feature films will be studied in relation to time, space and their historicized “Chinese-ness.”

Objectives of the course:

By studying films from Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan, from the emergence of the New Waves, their subsequent internationalization and their present transnational status, the student will understand the current production of Greater China.

Concomitantly, the student will learn about basic Chinese cultural concepts and indigenous modes of filmic representation.

Required readings:

Required readings are to be found in the book *Chinese Films in Focus: 25 New Takes*, Chris Berry, ed., British Film Institute, 2004. Exceptions to this rule are articles that are accessible online from the UofC library.

The textbook is on sale at the bookstore of the University of Calgary.

Screenings:

Films will be screened on Tuesday, right after the lecture. Students are required to view all films that are studied in class. The films can also be viewed at the library, 3rd F. on a small screen. Contact: circulation desk at TFDL 329; (403) 220-6162; VPArts@ucalgary.ca

Assignments and Evaluation:

5 quizzes: 40% (5 quizzes x 8%);

2 reports: 40% (1st =15%; 2nd = 25%);

1 final exam: 20% (5 questions x 4%).

The five quizzes are multiple choice and/or answers in a few words on material discussed in class up to the quiz.

- **Dates: Jan. 26; Feb. 16; March 8; March 22; April 10**

The two reports are brief (600-word) essays on two films chosen from the list provided or approved by the instructor. The second report must be more comparative, that is, contextualized and with comparisons of other films discussed in class.

- **Dates: Feb. 28; April 12**

The final exam is a registrar-scheduled final examination composed of five questions based on all the material studied in class and the required readings.

- **Date: TBA, usually during the two weeks following end of classes.**

Grading System

A+ (96-100); A (92-95); A- (86-91);
B+ (81-85); B (77-80); B- (71-76);
C+ (65-70); C (62-64); C- (59-61);
D+ (55-58); D (50-54);
F (0-49).

- N.B:**
1. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
 2. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.
 3. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca
 4. Making and receiving calls on cell phones are not allowed in class. During quizzes and exams, no electronic device is allowed.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Screenings

Week 1 (Jan. 10 & 12)

Early Fifth Generation films: Politics and Third World cinema

Required reading: Ch. 24. Helen Hok-Sze Leung. "*Yellow Earth: Hesitant Apprenticeship and Bitter Agency.*"

Screening (Jan. 10): YELLOW EARTH by Chen Kaige

Week 2 (Jan. 17 & 19)

Early Fifth Generation films: Away from urban centers and the Han majority

Required reading: Ch. 19. Shuqin Cui. "*Kekexili: Mountain Patrol: Moral Dilemma and a Man with a Camera.*"

Screening (Jan. 17): HORSE THIEF by Tian Zhuangzhuang

Week 3 (Jan. 24 & 26)

Early Fifth Generation films: A social mandate

Required reading: Ch. 21. Rey Chow. “*Not One Less: The Fable of a Migration.*”

Screening (Jan. 24): NOT ONE LESS by Zhang Yimou

Jan. 26: Quiz #1

Week 4 (Jan. 31 & Feb. 2)

Taiwan’s Early New Cinema: The local and the personal

Required reading: Ch. 27. Corrado Neri. “*A Time to Live, A Time to Die: A Time to Grow.*”

Screening (Jan. 31): A TIME TO LIVE, A TIME TO DIE by Hou Hsiao-hsien

Week 5 (Feb. 7 & 9)

Feb. 7: Hong Kong’s New Wave: A woman films the underbelly of H.K.

Feb. 9: Researching your topic. Librarian Rosvita Vaska demonstrates how to find sources for your assignments.

Required reading: Ch. 5. Julian Stringer. “*Boat People: Second Thoughts on Text and Context.*”

Screening (Feb. 7): BOAT PEOPLE by Ann Hui

Week 6 (Feb. 14 & 16)

Hou Hsiao-hsien’s representation of ‘Old China’

Required reading: Ch. 14. Gary Xu. “*Flowers of Shanghai: Visualising Ellipses and (Colonial) Absence.*”

Screening (Feb. 14): FLOWERS OF SHANGHAI by Hou Hsiao-hsien

Feb. 16: Quiz #2

Week 7 (Feb. 21 & 23) NO CLASSES: READING WEEK

Week 8 (Feb. 28 & March 1)

Zhang Yimou’s representation of ‘Old China’

Required reading: Dai Qing. "Raised Eyebrows for Raise the Red Lantern," *Public Culture* 5, Winter 1993, 333-37. [electronic resource, UofC library]

Screening (Feb. 28): RAISE THE RED LANTERN by Zhang Yimou

Feb. 28: Submission of 1st report

Week 9 (March 6 & 8)

Hong Kong Eclectic: Making of hodge-podge of ancient China

Required reading: Ch. 7. John Zou. “*A Chinese Ghost Story*: Ghostly Counsel and Innocent Man.”

Screening (March 6): A CHINESE GHOST STORY by Ching Siu-tung and Tsui Hark

March 8: *Quiz #3*

Week 10 (March 13 ONLY)

Hong Kong revamps style: postmodern Old Shanghai

Required reading: Ch. 18. Audrey Yue. “*In the Mood for Love*: Intersections of Hong Kong Modernity.”

Screening (March 13): IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE by Wong Kar Wai

No classes on March 15: instructor away at a conference

Week 11 (March 20 & 22)

Post-socialist China and its discontents

Required reading: Ch. 32. Chris Berry. “*Xiao Wu*: Watching Time Go By.”

Screening (March 20): XIAO WU by Jia Zhangke

Week 12 (March 27 & 29)

Taiwan’s reverse image: Alienation and solitude

Required reading: Ch. 29. Fran Martin. “*Vive L’Amour*: Eloquent Emptiness.”

Screening (March 27): VIVE L’AMOUR by Tsai Ming-Liang

Week 13 (April 3 & 5)

Confucian values in Greater China

Required reading: Ch. 34. David Leiwei Li. “*Yi Yi*: Reflections on Reflexive Modernity in Taiwan.”

Screening (April 3): YI YI by Yang Te-chang [Edward Yang]

Week 14 (April 10 & 12)

What is “Chinese” in Chinese cinema?

Recapitulation of the main features of cinema from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan

April 10: *Quiz #5*

April 12: *Submission of 2nd report*

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca