

CHIN 357.03

SYLLABUS

FALL 2013

Chinese Cinema. Focus on a filmmaker: Jia Zhangke

Instructor	Claire Huot
Lectures EEEL 161	TU, TR: 15:30-16:45
Screenings EEEL 161	TU: 17:00 -20:00
Office	Craigie Hall C-104
Consultation	TR: 11:30-12:30 or chuot@ucalgary.ca

Description: Jia Zhangke is “one of the 10 filmmakers that will define cinema’s next decade” (Artforum). Jia “may well be the most important filmmaker working in the world today” (NPR). We will study all of Jia’s available films, feature films and documentaries that have English subtitles, in terms of what they contribute to Chinese cinema and what they show of present day China. **Format:** Classes will be in the form of lectures that are based on weekly required readings and viewing of specific films. Students are invited to present orally their critique of a particular film. Class participation is expected. Those who cannot attend the scheduled screenings must find time on their own to view them (3rd F. Taylor Library).

EVALUATION		
Quizzes (4) 10% x 4	Oct. 8 (TU) Oct. 22 (TU) Nov. 14 (TR) Dec. 3 (TU)	15-minute; short answer questions based on the films and readings studied up to that date (not cumulative)
Report (1) 15%	Oral presentation: Staggered from Oct. 8- Dec. 3 Written: Nov. 19	Oral or written critical review of one film of your choice May be solo or group oral presentation (15’)

EVALUATION (continued)		
Essay (1) 5%	Nov. 14 (TR)	Topic of your choice but approved by the instructor by Nov. 14 (title, abstract & references) 10 pages double spaced
20%	Dec. 5 (TR)	
Exam 20%	Scheduled by the Registrar: between 9-19 Dec.	
		4 essay-type questions, one page per answer (double spaced) based on all the material seen in class

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

DATE	TOPICS, SCREENINGS, ASSIGNMENTS	READINGS
WEEK 1 Sept. 10 & 12	Introduction to the course; overview of Chinese cinema	Jia Zhangke. "Irrepressible Images: New Films in China from 1995." <i>China Perspectives</i> . http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/5056
Sept. 10	Screening of YELLOW EARTH (89') by Chen Kaige w. Zhang Yimou 1988	
WEEK 2 Sept. 17 & 19	XIAO WU 小武 1997	Lee, Kevin. 2003. "Jia Zhangke". <i>Senses of Cinema</i> . http://sensesofcinema.com/2003/great-directors/jia/
Sept. 17	Screening of XIAO WU (107') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 R46 1999 (Region 2?)	
WEEK 3 Sep 24 & 26	PLATFORM 站台 2000	Lin Xiaoping. "Jia Zhangke's Cinematic Trilogy: A Journey across the Ruins of Post-Mao China", <i>Children of Marx and Coca-Cola</i> , pp. 147-164 [UofC e-book]

Sept. 24	Screening of PLATFORM (154') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 Z436 2000	
WEEK 4 Oct. 1 & 3	UNKNOWN PLEASURES 任逍遥 2002	Additional reference: Michael Berry. 2009. <i>Jia Zhangke's 'Hometown Trilogy': Xiao Wu, Platform, Unknown Pleasures</i> [reserve]
Oct. 1	Screening of UNKNOWN PLEASURES (113') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 R469 2002	

WEEK 5 Oct. 8 & 10	Quiz #1 Oct. 8 [10%] THE WORLD 世界 2004	Tonglin Lu. 2008. 'Fantasy and reality of a virtual China in Jia Zhangke's film THE WORLD.'" <i>Journal of Chinese Cinemas</i> . vol. 2, no. 3. 163-179. [UofC e-journal]
Oct. 8	Screening of THE WORLD (120') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 S55 2004	
WEEK 6 Oct. 15 & 17	STILL LIFE 三峡好人 2006	Zhu, Ping. "Destruction, moral nihilism and the poetics of debris in Jia Zhangke's Still Life." <i>Visual Anthropology</i> [0894-9468] 2011. vol:24 iss:4 pp. 318 -328 [UofC e-journal]
Oct. 15	Screening of STILL LIFE (108') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 S36 2006	
WEEK 7 Oct. 22 & 24	Quiz #2 Oct. 22 [10%] DONG 东 2006	Esther Cheung. "Realisms within Conundrum: The Personal and Authentic Appeal in Jia Zhangke's Accented Films." <i>China Perspectives</i> . 2010, pp. 11-20. http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/5048?file=1
Oct. 22	Screening of DONG (70') by Jia Zhangke PN1995.9 .C47 S36 2006	

WEEK 8 Oct. 29 & 31	IN PUBLIC 公共场所 2001 USELESS 无用 2007	Luke Robinson "Time, Space and Movement." <i>Independent Chinese Documentary: From the Studio to the Street</i> . 2013, pp. 92-101 [e-book UofC] Jia Zhangke "IN PUBLIC in my own words" <i>China Perspectives</i> . 2010.pp. 52-53. http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/5058?file=1
Oct. 29	Screening of IN PUBLIC (30') and of USELESS (80') by Jia Zhangke IN PUBLIC: PN1993.43 .J466 2009 DISC 2; USELESS: PN1995.9 .C47 W896 2008	
WEEK 9 Nov. 5 & 7	Jia's short docs: THE CONDITION OF DOGS 狗的状况 2001 (6'); CRY ME A RIVER 河上的 愛情 2008 (19'); BLACK BREAKFAST 黑色早 餐 2011 (4:53') Antonioni's documentary on China, CHUNG KUO 1972	Alice Xiang, "'When Ordinary Seeing Fails': Reclaiming the Art of Documentary in Michelangelo Antonioni's 1972 China Film Chung Kuo." <i>Senses of Cinema</i> 67 (July 2013). http://sensesofcinema.com/2013/feature-articles/when-ordinary-seeing-fails-reclaiming-the-art-of-documentary-in-michelangelo-antonionis-1972-china-film-chung-kuo/
Nov. 5	Screening of CHUNG KUO (N.B.: 3h.28') by Michelangelo Antonioni	
WEEK 10 Nov. 12: reading day Nov. 14	Quiz #3 Nov. 14 [10%] Topic for essay due Nov. 14 [5%] 24 CITY 二十四城记 2008	Jia Zhangke. "What Remains is Silence." <i>China Perspectives</i> . 2010, pp. http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/5059?file=1 Jia Zhangke. "Building a Public Consciousness. <i>Ibid.</i> pp.58 -64 http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/5060?file=1

Nov. 12	NO screenings, reading day	
WEEK 11 Nov. 19 & 21	Report due Nov. 19 [15%] 24 CITY 二十四城记 2008	Shu-chin Wu. "Time, history, and memory in Jia Zhangke's 24 City." <i>Film Criticism</i> . 36.1 (2011), pp. 3-23 [UofC e-journal] Zhang Xudong. "Poetics of Vanishing: The Films of Jia Zhangke" <i>New Left Review</i> 63, May June 2010, pp.71-88 [UofC e-journal]
Nov. 19	Screening of 24 CITY (152') by Jia Zhangke HN733.5 .E77 2009	
WEEK 12 Nov. 26 & 28	I WISH I KNEW 海上传奇 2010	Andrew, Dudley, and Xu Jing. "The Lion's Gaze: truth and legend in I Wish I Knew." <i>Film Criticism</i> 36.1 (2011), pp.24-43. [UofC e-journal]
Nov. 26	Screening of I WISH I KNEW (138') by Jia Zhangke DS796 .S257 J53 2010 Blu-Ray DVD	
WEEK 13 Dec. 3 & 5	Quiz #4 Dec. 3 [10%] Essay due Dec. 5 [20%] Revision for final exam	

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. Absence to quizzes must be explained and documentation provided in order to make alternate arrangements.

4. Making and receiving calls on cell phones are not allowed in class. During quizzes and exams, no electronic device is allowed.

5. Plagiarism, i.e. the use of other people's work without acknowledging it, will result in an 'F'. So will cheating.