(CHINESE 280/GER 4B)
East Asian Cultures Through Film:
Encounters in Media Across Difference

Instructor: Emily Wilcox eewilcox@wm.edu

COURSE TIME and LOCATION: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50 (Section 1);
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:20 (Section 2). Washington Hall 301
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 3:30pm-5:30pm and other times by appointment.
OFFICE LOCATION: Washington Hall 316
TA: Sean Cheng seanpcheng@gmail.com

Course Description:
Film is one of the most important media through which we learn about and produce culture today. Film not only represents the world but also shapes our perceptions and understandings about it. Through film, we encounter people and places other to our own, and these filmic representations take on lives with global circulation and impact. In this course, we explore the ways in which film has served as a discursive medium for the production of representations and perceptions about East Asia. We examine influential films from throughout the twentieth century, including films produced in the United States, China, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan starting in the 1930s through the present. This course is a pilot class for the William and Mary Internationalization Grant on Film and New Media in Higher Education. Thus, we will explore the use of various new media technologies as pedagogical tools for cross-cultural education in this course. These include web publishing, image and video editing, and international online video conferencing. Students will complete two web-based projects analyzing contemporary films that have been produced in or are about East Asia, and these projects will be published on the course website:
http://chinese.blogs.wm.edu/chinese-280-east-asian-cultures-through-film/
The second of the two projects will be created through a collaborate with a group of Chinese students at Beijing Normal University in China, using film as a tool for cross-cultural communication and learning.

Required Texts (available at the W&M Bookstore and on reserve at Swem):*

Recommended Reference Text:
All other required readings and films will be made available for free electronically using the Blackboard course website. Required books and films are on reserve in Swem.

Course Objectives:
This course fulfills a dual objective of providing disciplinary training for students majoring or minoring in the program in Chinese Language and Culture, as well as offering broad knowledge to non-specialized students enrolled through the General Education curriculum. In addition, as a pilot course for the new Internationalization Grant for Film and New Media in Higher Education, this course explores the use of film and new media in intercultural education. Therefore, the course as three sets of primary objectives:

1. Chinese Language and Culture
As core culture content course in the Chinese program, Chinese 280 has the following goals:
• Introduce students to important movements and works in East Asian cinema and cinema about East Asia, as they relate to larger themes in Chinese cultural studies;
• Provide students with analytical skills and theoretical tools to engage in rigorous discussion, reflection and writing about East Asian cinema and cinema about East Asia.

2. General Education
As established by the W&M curriculum committee, GER 4B courses fulfills the following objectives set out for the General Education curriculum in “World Cultures and History”:
• Students will understand important cultural and historical topics, issues, or themes in more than one period or in one critical period or in a movement or movements;
• Students will understand institutions, movements, or cultural practices in historical context;
• Students will understand critical historical and cultural events, institutions, ideas, or literary/artistic achievements.

3. Film and New Media Internationalization Grant Pilot Course
• Provide students with technical skills related to film and new media, including basic web publishing, editing of digital media content, and use of technology for cross-cultural communication;
• Explore and reflect on the use of film and new media in higher education as a pedagogical tool for cross-cultural education.

Course Requirements:
Assignments and activities for this course are broken down into the following categories:

- Reading and Film Quizzes 20% of total grade
- Film Responses 10% of total grade
- Unit One Wordpress Project 10% of total grade
- Final Wordpress Project 20% of total grade
- Final Exam 25% of total grade
- Participation 15% of total grade

The specific descriptions of these requirements are explained below:
Reading and Film Quizzes: To ensure that students keep up on weekly readings and film viewings, occasional in-class reading and film quizzes will be given, with an average frequency of once per week. Quizzes will take place during the first 15 minutes of class, and they will cover only the reading assignment and/or film viewing assignment for that day. No books, notes, or computers may be used during the quizzes. Quizzes missed due to unexcused absences may be made up within one class meeting for 1/5 credit.

Film Responses: To encourage deeper reflection on the required films, and to encourage class discussion, weekly informal film responses are assigned. These papers are to be submitted electronically using the Assignment feature on Blackboard before the start of class each Thursday, as noted in the course schedule. In addition, students are to bring a copy to class to use in discussion. Film responses should be written in paragraph form (not bullet points or outline), and they should reflect on the film in light of themes discussed in required readings for that week. Responses should be 1 page, double-spaced, in 12 point New Times Roman font, with one-inch margins. No more than 5 single-spaced lines may be used for the header and title. Response papers/journals will be graded on a scale of 0 to 2 as follows: “0” - not submitted; “1” - submitted but does not follow directions (for example, because it is too short, it is submitted late, it does not deal with the contents from the week, etc.); “2” - submitted on-time, follows directions, and shows significant reflection on the contents from the week. Students will be selected randomly to share sections of their responses in class during film discussions.

Wordpress Projects: Students will complete two web-based projects for this course, both of which will result in contributions to the CHIN 280 Course Website. Workshops will be held to teach students how to use Wordpress and how to use other image and video editing software. In addition, the course TA will serve as a technology assistant to provide individual support.

- **Unit One Project:** This is the culminating project for Unit One, on cinematic representations of East Asia in Hollywood. Students will work in groups of 4 to analyze the depiction of one contemporary Hollywood film that deals with East Asia. Projects will bring together text, video, and image to produce a web-based multimedia analytical paper. Projects should draw on course readings, lectures, and a limited amount of independent research, with an emphasis on student-generated original analysis.

- **Final Project:** This is the culminating project for the class. Students will work 1-on-1 in a cross-cultural exchange with a Chinese student studying at Beijing Normal University, using film as a medium for discussion and reflection. Based on their own interests, each pair of students will select one American film and one Chinese film with related themes to watch and discuss. Using Skype or another video chat program, students will engage in three 1-hour conversations, one to select the films, one to discuss the films, and one a follow-up discussion for planning and executing the final project. Students may choose to watch additional films or to participate in additional conversations at their own choice. Finally, each pair of students will create a multimedia bilingual online project based on their films and discussions.

Further instructions will be provided closer to the due date for each project.
Final Exam: The Final Exam will take place during the Exam Period, according to the
time designated by the official College of William and Mary exam schedule. The exam
will consist of short response and fill-in-the-blank questions and one essay question, and
it will cover all course contents for the semester. A study guide will be provided.

Participation: In class discussions and explorations of the assigned readings and films are
a very important part of this class, in which all students are expected to be active
participants. Participation during class discussion is defined as making meaningful
contributions, by sharing one’s ideas and responding to the ideas of others. Grades for
assignments not listed in the grades breakdown will contribute to the participation grade.

Course Expectations:
Apart from the assignments outlined above, the following are general expectations for
students:
Bring the assigned readings for the day with you to every class meeting, either in hard or
electronic copy;
Email me or come to office hours if you have questions or concerns about the course that
cannot be addressed during class time, or if you need extra help. (Office hour and email
information can be found at the top of this syllabus);
Let me know immediately (preferably during class) if assignments or expectations are
unclear;
Feel free to interrupt lectures at any time if you have questions about the material
presented;
Maintain a standard of behavior that accords with the College’s Honor Code, and feel
free to cooperate with other students while maintaining the integrity of your own work;
Regular attention to emails from the instructor and to posted course materials on
Blackboard;
In addition, students can expect the following from the instructor:
Equal and fair treatment of all students regardless of background, major, year in college,
linguistic ability, etc.
Genuine passion for teaching students and demonstrated desire to help them improve;
Clear explanations of class assignments and expectations, including criteria of evaluation
for all papers, exams, and quizzes;
Timely return of graded assignments with feedback as appropriate;
Regular use of Blackboard to distribute electronic course readings, to post handouts and
course assignments (including PPT files and links used in lectures as appropriate), and to
report student grades in a transparent and accessible manner;
Timely response to emails, and availability to students during office hours and
appointments;
Overall commitment to student learning in and outside the classroom;
Openness to student feedback and ideas.

Absences: If you have special circumstances that cause you to miss class for any reason,
please email me in advance of your absence and provide a written statement indicating
that the absence should be excused, for what reason, and proof of the reason. Quizzes
missed due to excused absences may be made up for full credit on or before the day the student returns to class.

Guest Speakers: Several guest speakers will visit our class to share expertise on historical and cultural studies related to Japan. The material presented by these speakers will be included in the overall course content and will be tested on the Final Exam.

Film Screenings: To enable interested students to view the required course films in a large screen environment, I have reserved Blow 331 every Tuesday evening from 8pm to midnight. When films are available online, I have included a link in the syllabus. DVDs of all required films will also be on reserve in Swem. Tuesday evening film screenings will be held for films not available online.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: All required readings listed for a given day should be completed before class on that day. Students should bring the assigned readings with them to class.

Week One: Introduction to the Course
Thursday, January 17
No assignments due today.
Introduction to course expectations and content.
Media Tutorial: Introduction to Using WordPress with Mike Blum

UNIT ONE – Film as Discourse: Depictions of East Asia in Hollywood

Week Two: ‘The Yellow Peril,’ Asia in the American Imagination
Tuesday, January 22
*Wordpress Assignment One (Personal Bio) due on the CHIN 280 Course Website before class.

• Film of the Week: The Bitter Tea of General Yan (1933)
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHKalFpgksk

Thursday, January 24
Required Reading: Gina Marchetti “Introduction,” “The Rape Fantasy” (Selections) and “Threat of Captivity” (Selections) in Romance and the ‘Yellow Peril’: Race, Sex, and Discursive Strategies in Hollywood Fiction. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993 pp. 1-9, 10-32, 46-57.
*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

Week Three: Orientalism and the Cold War
Tuesday, January 29
  • Film of the Week: The World of Suzie Wong (1960)  
    http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C731pk1U1NU

Thursday, January
*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

Week Four: Film and the U.S. Occupation of Japan

Tuesday, February 5
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Hiroshi Kitamura, Associate Professor of American History, William and Mary Department of History  
  • Film of the Week: Sayonara (1957) 
    http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ke6nrY11v0

Thursday, February 7
*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

Week Five: East Asia in Contemporary Hollywood (Unit One Projects)
Tuesday, February 12
Unit One Project Presentations  
* Unit One Wordpress Projects due on the CHIN 280 Course Website before class.

Thursday, February 14
Unit One Project Presentations

* Unit One Wordpress Projects due on the CHIN 280 Course Website before class.

**UNIT TWO – National Cinemas: Classic Film in China and Japan**

**Week Six:**
Tuesday, February 19

- Film of the Week: *Lights of Ten Thousand Homes/ Myriad of Lights* (1948)
  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXY5xT6sEcE

Thursday, February 21

*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

**Required Guest Lecture: “Love in the Time of Opium: The Centennial of China’s Opium War in the Culture of Imperial Japan.” Dr. Miriam Kingsberg, Assistant Professor of Japanese History, University of Colorado at Boulder Department of History.

Friday, February 22nd. 3:00-4:30pm. Location TBA.

**Week Seven:**
Tuesday, February 26

- Film of the Week: *Rashomon* (1950)
  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dM_ZtjdclM

Thursday, February 28

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Eric Han, Assistant Professor of East Asian History, William and Mary Department of History.
UNIT THREE – Global Impacts: East Asian Film on the World Screen

Week Nine: Hong Kong and Transnational Martial Arts Cinema
Tuesday, March 12

- Film of the Week: A Touch of Zen (1969)
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UivbdZ6xhjU

Thursday, March 14

*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

Week Twelve: Japanese Animation Cinema
Tuesday, March 19

- Film of the Week: Akira (1988)
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ubqs2SLJfU

Thursday, March 21

Guest Speaker: Dr. Rachel DiNitto, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, William and Mary Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

Tuesday, March 26
Required Reading: Chris Berry “Cinema: From Foreign Import to Global Brand” in Kam Louie, ed. Cambridge Companion to Modern Chinese Culture. Cambridge: Cambridge

- Film of the Week: *Yellow Earth* (1984)
  (part 1) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLO9Wh6KI0O](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLO9Wh6KI0O)
  (part 2) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKDhJMsmRTA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKDhJMsmRTA)
  (part 3) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fWPS7-KpPs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fWPS7-KpPs)
  (part 4) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYsU2dQFt4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYsU2dQFt4)
  (part 5) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLofWOxtNaw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLofWOxtNaw)
  (part 6) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQB2CBEl2es](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQB2CBEl2es)

Thursday, March 28

*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

**Week Eleven: “The Fifth Generation,” Chinese New Wave II**
Tuesday, April 2

*Final Project Conversation 1 notes due on Blackboard before class.

- Film of the Week: *Red Sorghum* (1987)
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=415CReI3zs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=415CReI3zs)

Thursday, April 4

*Film Response Post due on Blackboard before class.

**Week Thirteen: Taiwan’s New Wave**
Tuesday, April 9

*Final Project Conversation 2 notes due on Blackboard before class.

- Film of the Week: *Good Men, Good Women* (1995)
  [http://www.tudou.com/albumplay/FiwxV5tnU0Q/GSuOBSAENLs.html](http://www.tudou.com/albumplay/FiwxV5tnU0Q/GSuOBSAENLs.html)

Thursday, April 11
*Film Response Post due on Blackboard by Wednesday at 11:59pm.

**Week Fourteen: Cross-Cultural Encounters Through Film (Final Projects)**

**Tuesday, April 16**
Media Workshop: Troubleshooting on Wordpress with Mike Blum.
*Final Project Plan and Conversation 3 Reflection due on Blackboard before class.

**Thursday, April 18**
Final Project Presentations
* Final Wordpress Projects due on the CHIN 280 Course Website before class.

**Week Fifteen: Cross-Cultural Encounters Through Film (Final Projects)**

**Tuesday, April 23**
Final Project Presentations
* Final Wordpress Projects due on the CHIN 280 Course Website before class.

**Thursday, April 25**
Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam**
**Section 1:** Wednesday, May 8 9:00-12:00pm
**Section 2:** Monday, April 29 2:00-5:00pm
Location TBA