

COURSE TITLE: Sinophone Cinemas

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Tuesday 9:30-10:45

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tiffany Yun-Chu Tsai

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Office: Capers Hall 221B

Office Hour: Monday, Wednesday: 10-11 am

Tuesday, Thursday: 11am – 12pm or by appointment.

This course examines the cinemas of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet in light of topics like: historical memory (the February 28 Incident in Taiwan in 1947, the 1997 Hong Kong handover); visualized sexualities; transnationalism and diaspora. The class participation, discussion, presentation, and examination are designed to enable students to do the following:

- Explain the political, socio-cultural or historical contexts of Chinese culture and cinema
- Identify the characteristics of Chinese cinematic traditions, directors, genres, and themes
- Analyze filmic texts
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Compare and contrast the “foreign” filmic texts and the twenty-first century reality in a college classroom in the United States of America and the world

Film screenings are mandatory and will take place in class; however, it will only screen half of the film. You have to finish watching the film in the library before the next discussion session. Class materials are either distributed on class website (protected by password) or reserved in the library. Please come to discussion having watched and read the materials assigned. Grades will be assessed as follows:

1. Participation	2%	(discussion in class)
2. Quiz	10%	
3. Dictation	5%	(3 times)
4. Presentation	18%	(on your chosen date)
5. Midterm Exam	30%	
6. Final Exam	35%	

1. As the first three items suggest, your participation (2%), quiz (10%), and dictation (5%) affect your grade. You must show up having watched the film, read the assignment for that day, and prepared to actively discuss it with the class (2%). Quizzes (10%) will be assigned in class to check if you identify what happened in the film. You should know how to write the title of the films in Chinese. Dictations (5%) will be assigned to check if you learn new vocabularies chosen by your classmates.
2. During the semester, you will be required to give two individual presentations, one on September 5, one at the beginning of one class session of your chosen day. The presentation dates will be chosen on the first day of class. I mark your presentation dates and the film for your presentation in orange. Please note that you will present on the film that is screened one session before your

presentation. You NEED TO consult with me at least a week before your presentation to ensure that you will provide useful information to the class and that you will have enough time for research if you need our librarians' or my helps. In the presentation, you should provide the class additional contextual information about the era, director, filmic work, and/or socio-cultural or historical contexts of Chinese culture relating to this film. You have to use **academic sources** for the information you provide in your presentation. Your presentation grade is assessed as PowerPoint (5%), oral presentation (5%), and a hard copy of your presentation (5%). In your PowerPoint and oral presentation, make sure you demonstrate the information from academic sources in vision and speech concisely and clearly. Your hard copy of the presentation must be written in **MLA format** and cite all academic sources that you use. The presentation should be at least **5 minutes long**. Please mark your presentation date on the following course schedule.

### **Extra Credit and Resubmission**

You need to sign in to each event/occasion in order to get your extra credit.

### ***In Quiz:***

1. Chinese Club - 1 credit points for each meeting.
2. Office Hour with Cai Laoshi - 2 credit points for each meeting (more than 30 minutes each time.)
3. Talk - 2 credit points for one talk and sharing. For each talk that you go to and share your thoughts in class, you will get 2 credit points.
4. Mid-autumn Festival Dinner - 2 credit points. This event has a strict rule of pre-registration and sign-up at the event. Cancellation can only be made a week before the event. If you pre-register for participation but do not show up, instead of earning 2 extra credits, you will lose 2 credits in your dictation because of your uninformed cancellation (unless you provide doctor's note). This is a big dinner to make; please respect your professor and people who make this cultural experience happen for you.

### SECTION TIMES/DAYS:

#### Film screening –

1. First session of each new film:  
We will watch a new film together in class on the first session. Later that day, you will have to finish watching the assigned movie on your own.

#### Lecture, Presentation, and Discussion –

2. Second session of each new film:  
At the beginning of this session, one student will do a presentation in class. This presentation is scheduled and assigned on the first day of the semester and should be a brief introduction to the film director and the history behind this film. After the student's presentation, there will be a quiz about (A) the facts about the assigned movie (to make sure that you have watched the movie), and (B) something from the presentation (to make sure that you listen to your classmate's presentation).

If there is no student presentation scheduled on the day, the quiz will only be on the facts about the film. During this second session, we will discuss about the cinematic presentation of the film and its themes.

TEXTBOOK:

The course textbook is ordered through campus bookstore; there is also a copy reserved in the library for a three-hour limit for checking out. The films will be reserved for the course and can be checked out for three hours.

Rojas, Carlos, and Eileen Cheng-yin Chow, editors. *The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas*. Oxford UP, 2013.

WEBSITE: <https://yunchut.wixsite.com/sinophonecinemas>

\*\*The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time in order to accommodate learning needs of the students. By remaining enrolled in this class, the student agrees to read carefully and subsequently accepts the instructor’s policies as outlined in this document.\*\*

CALENDAR:

I mark your presentation dates and the film for your presentation in orange. Please note that you will present on the film that is screened one session before your presentation. In the presentation, you should provide the class additional contextual information about the era, director, filmic work, and/or socio-cultural or historical contexts of Chinese culture relating to this film.

Date	Topic	Text and Task	Presentation
8/29	Introduction and Syllabus	Assign presentations	
9/3	The Silenced Memory of History	Film: Hou Hsiao-hsien’s <i>City of Sadness</i> , 1989	
9/5		History of the February 28 Massacre and the Martial Law Period in Taiwan: culture, language, politics, economics *Reading: “Taipei 1947,” <i>A History of Pain</i>	Everyone will present: History of the February 28 Massacre and the Martial Law Period in Taiwan
9/10		Discussion: history and film	
9/12	Cosmopolitan Taipei	Film: Edward Yang’s <i>Yi Yi: A One and a Two</i> , 2000	
9/17		Reading to be discussed: “Edward Yang and Taiwan’s Age of Auteurs”	

9/19	Family and sexuality	Film: Ang Lee's <i>The Wedding Banquets</i> , 1993	
9/24			
9/26	Hong Kong/China at the Fin-de-siècle	Film: Wong Kar-Wai's <i>Happy Together</i> , 1997	
10/1		Reading: Ackbar Abbas, "The Erotics of Disappointment."	
10/3	Hong Kong/China at the Fin-de-siècle	Film: Stanley Kwan's <i>Rogue</i> , 1988	
10/8			
10/10		Review	
10/15	Midterm Exam:	Materials before midterm	
10/17	Adapting the Classic	Film: Tsui Hark's <i>Green Snake</i> , 1993	
10/22		Discussion:	
10/24	Independent Hong Kong Film	Film: Fruit Chan's <i>Hollywood Hong Kong</i> , 2001	
10/29		Reading: "Conceiving Cross-Border Communities: Mobile Women in Recent Hong Kong Cinema"	
10/31	Taiwan New Cinema	Film: Wei Te-sheng's <i>Seediq Bale</i> , 2011	
11/5		In-class trailer screening: <i>Cape No. 7</i> , 2008	
11/7	Martial Art	Film: Wong Kar-Wai's <i>The Grandmaster</i> , 2013	
11/12		Discussion	
11/14	World Cinema	Film: Ang Lee's <i>Crouching tiger, hidden dragon</i>	
11/19		Discussion	
11/21	Film on Tibet	<i>Samsara</i>	
11/22-12/1	Fall Furlough		
12/3	Tibetan Film	Film: Pema Tseden's <i>The Silent Holy Stones</i> , 2005	
12/5		Discussion:	
12/10	Review	All materials this semester	
12/12	Final Exam	Thursday 8am	