CCSS3440/CHES5126 China on Screen

2019-20, Term 2, Wednesdays 2:30pm-5:15pm
WMY 502 (Wu Ho Man Yuen Building)

Lecturer: Prof. Kristof VAN DEN TROOST (k.vandentroost@cuhk.edu.hk)
Teaching Assistant: TBC

Course Description
Many 20th century Chinese films were concerned with issues of nationhood, identity, trauma, and a national past. In recent years, however, while some directors have continued to focus on the nation's past, others have chosen to look at the present and the effects of globalization on Chinese society and culture. This course asks that students begin to understand Chinese cinema(s) as transnational, a triangular composite of Mainland, Taiwan, and Hong Kong cinema that has also been influenced by Hollywood, Japanese and Korean cinema, amongst others. Students will be introduced to Chinese film history and criticism via an examination of ten films directed by some of Greater China's most skilled directors.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, you should:
- exhibit a firm, if basic, grasp of modern Chinese history and be able to discuss its relation to cinema production in Greater China
- be familiar with some of Greater China's most important film directors and their works
- have a basic understanding of film language and technique
- be able to view and write about films critically

Learning Activities
Students are required to attend one three-hour lecture session per week during which they will view a film with the instructor and discuss its significance. When the film is long, class time may be extended as necessary. This course uses the CUHK Blackboard, which can be found at https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk. You can find the course readings, assignments and announcements on this platform. Make sure to check it regularly.

Assessment Scheme
The score for participation (10%) will be based on students’ contribution to class discussions. All students must attend film viewings whether they have previously seen the film or not. There are four short assignments listed at intervals throughout the syllabus. CCSS3440 students are required to complete three of the four. CHES5126 students will be expected to complete all four. The first assignment is required of all students. At the end of the term, each student will have to submit the final take-home assignment. All assignments should be e-mailed to the instructor in Word format by 6:00pm of the due date. A signed VeriGuide receipt for each assignment should be submitted to the Teaching Assistant’s mailbox (Yasumoto International Academic Park, 11/F, opposite elevator). VeriGuide can be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.
Course Grading System:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Take-Home Assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Course Schedule

[PDF versions of all readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK Blackboard. Registered students may access the CCSS3440/CHES5126 page by using their Student ID and OnePass password]

Week 1 (8/1): Introduction


Week 2 (15/1): The Goddess (1934)


Week 3 (22/1): Spring in a Small Town (1948)


Week 4 (29/1): NO CLASS – Lunar New Year

Week 5 (5/2): A Touch of Zen (1971)


***Friday 7 February Assignment 1 Due (REQUIRED)!***

Week 6 (12/2): Two Stage Sisters (1964)


Week 7 (19/2): Woman, Demon, Human (1987)


***Friday 21 February Assignment 2 Due***
Week 8 (26/2):  
**Red Sorghum** (1987)


Week 9 (4/3):  
**Dust in the Wind** (1986)


Week 10 (11/3):  
**Hard Boiled** (1992)


***Friday 13 March Short Assignment 3 Due***

Week 11 (18/3):  
**In the Mood for Love** (2000)


Week 12 (25/3):  
**Election** (2005)


***Friday 27 March Short Assignment 4 Due***

Week 13 (1/4):  
**A Touch of Sin** (2013)


Week 14 (8/4):  
**Devils on the Doorstep** (2000)


Week 15 (15/4):  
**Yi Yi** (2000)


***Friday 24 April Final Assignment Due***

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