



CHES3012/CHES5133 Trauma and Memory in 20th and 21st Century China

2021-22, Term 2, Thursdays 2:30pm-6:15pm
HYS G01 (Hui Yeung Shing Building)

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Course Description

This course will use cinematic and literary texts to explore several traumatic events in China's recent history. We will focus on nine such events: the Nanjing Massacre, the 228 Incident, the Anti-Rightist Movement, the Great Famine, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the June Fourth Incident, violence in Tibet, COVID-19, and the Hong Kong anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill protests. These events resulted in different types of (national/collective) trauma: to that caused by foreign invasion to those stemming from intra-Chinese violence, center-periphery tensions and a global natural disaster.

Students will be asked to reflect on the way trauma is remembered, and on how the past is often rewritten in the service of the present. Central themes of the course will be history and its representation, the function of memory and trauma in the construction of (national) identity, the moral issues involved in the representation of trauma, and the importance of remembering and avoiding the repetition of past catastrophes.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should:

- have a basic grasp of modern Chinese history and some of its key events
- be able to critically analyze the different uses of the past in the present
- be able to discern different ways in which film and literature represent history and trauma
- understand some of the recurring conditions underlying various catastrophes in the modern age

Learning Activities

The class time of this course is flexible. *As we sometimes will watch a movie in class, class time may be extended until 6:15pm: attendance during the extra hour of class time is optional.* This course uses the CUHK Blackboard, which can be found at <https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>. You can find the course readings, assignments and recent announcements on this platform.

Assessment Scheme

The score for participation (10%) will be based on students' contribution to class discussions. Every week before class, students are invited to submit via e-mail a reading reflection (ca. 250-350 words) based on one or several of that week's course readings (30%). For **CHES3012 students**, the maximum score for one reading reflection is 3.5%. For **CHES5133 students**, the maximum score for one reading reflection is 3%. Reflections should be submitted to the course TA before midnight on the Tuesday before class. **CHES5133 students** are expected to complete two short assignments (ca. 700-1,000 words, 10% each) at specific times in the semester. **CHES3012 students** only have to complete the first of these short assignments, which will account for 20% of the final grade). At the end of the term, students will submit a final paper (2,000-2,500 words, 40%), in which they will apply the knowledge gained in the course to analyze the representation(s) of a traumatic event. More information about the assignments will be provided on separate sheets. The final paper and the short assignment(s) should be e-mailed in Word format to the TA by 6:00pm of the due date, along with a soft copy of the signed VeriGuide receipt. VeriGuide can be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>. Late assignments will be penalized.

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.

CHES3012 Course Grading System:

Participation	10%
Reading Reflections	30%
Short assignment	20%
Paper	40%

CHES5133 Course Grading System:

Participation	10%
Reading Reflections	30%
Short assignments (2)	20%
Paper	40%

Grade Descriptors (CHES3012)

A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B+	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall
B	substantial performance.
B-	
C+	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few
C	weaknesses.
C-	
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

To save paper and protect the environment, more detailed grade descriptors for MA students have been uploaded to Blackboard. Undergraduate students taking this course may want to take a look at them as well for reference. The level at which you are taking this course will be taken into account during grading!

Course Schedule

[PDF versions of all readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK Blackboard.]

Week 1 (13/1): Introduction

Berry, Michael. *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film*. New York: Columbia UP, 2008. 1-20.
 Brook, Timothy. "Preface: Lisbon, Auschwitz, Xuzhou: Suffering as History." In *Beyond Suffering: Recounting War in Modern China*, edited by James Flath and Norman Smith, xi-xix. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011.
Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-III. 3rd ed. Washington: American Psychiatric Association, 1987. 247-51.

Extra:

Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1996. 1-9.

Week 2 (20/1): Nanjing Massacre

Buruma, Ian. *The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Germany and Japan*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1994. 3-12; 112-35; 189-201.
 Reilly, James. "Remember History, Not Hatred: Collective Remembrance of China's War of Resistance to Japan." *Modern Asian Studies* 45, no. 2 (2011): 463-90.

Extra:

Chang, Iris. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. New York: Penguin Books, 1998. 3-16; 81-104; (105-39); (199-225).

Week 3 (27/1): Nanjing Massacre (Screening *City of Life and Death*, 2009)

Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. Rev. ed. New York: Penguin Books, 1977. 21-55; 83-150; 220-52; 276-9; 287-99.

Young-Bruehl, Elisabeth. *Why Arendt Matters*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006. 1-14.

Berkowitz, Roger. "Did Eichmann Think?" *Good Society* 23, no. 2 (2014): 193-205.

Extra:

Kraicer, Shelly. 2010. "A Matter of Life and Death: Lu Chuan and Post-Zhuxuanlu Cinema." *Cinemascope* 41. <http://cinemascope.com/wordpress/web-archive-2/issue-41/features-a-matter-of-life-and-death-lu-chuan-and-post-zhuxuanlu-cinema-by-shelly-kraicer/>.

Rayns, Tony. 2010. "Letter to the Editor." *Cinemascope* 42. <http://cinema-scope.com/wordpress/web-archive-2/issue-42/columns-letter-to-the-editor/>.

Lee, Kevin B. 2010. "City of Life and Death." *Cineaste* 36.2. <http://www.cineaste.com/articles/emcity-of-life-and-death-em-web-exclusive>.

Week 4 (3/2): NO CLASS – Lunar New Year Vacation

Week 5 (10/2): 228 Incident

Chen, Yingzhen. *Exiles at Home: Short Stories*. Translated by Lucien Miller. Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, U of Michigan, 1986. 39-50.

Guo, Songfen. *Running Mother and Other Stories*. Edited by John Balcom. New York: Columbia UP, 2009. 1-79.

Extra:

Lai, Tse-han, Ramon H. Myers, and Wei Wou. *A Tragic Beginning: The Taiwan Uprising of February 28, 1947*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1991. 1-12; 99-167.

*****Friday 11 February Short Assignment 1 Due*****

Week 6 (17/2): 228 Incident (Screening *City of Sadness*, 1989)

Lupke, Christopher. *The Sinophone Cinema of Hou Hsiao-Hsien: Culture, Style, Voice and Motion*. Amherst: Cambria Press, 2016. 113-51.

Extra:

Chi, Robert. "A World of Sadness?" In *Trauma and Cinema: Cross-Cultural Explorations*, edited by Ann E. Kaplan and Wang Ban, 65-89. Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP, 2004.

Berry, Michael. *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film*. New York: Columbia UP, 2008. 213-31.

Week 7 (24/2): Anti-Rightist Movement (Screening *Searching for Lin Zhao's Soul*, 2004)

Zhang, Xianliang. *Grass Soup*. Translated by Martha Avery. London: Secker & Warburg, 1994. v-vi; 118-132; 170-207.

Levi, Primo. *The Drowned and the Saved*. New York: Summit Books, 1988. 36-69.

Week 8 (3/3): Great Famine (Screening selections *Fengming*, 2007, and *The Ditch*, 2010)

Yang, Xianhui. *Woman from Shanghai: Tales of Survival from a Chinese Labor Camp*. Translated by Wen Huang. New York: Pantheon Books, 2009. vii-xiv; 3-26; 114-142; 143-161; 243-256; 257-71.

Extra:

Yang, Jisheng. *Tombstone: The Great Chinese Famine, 1958-1962*. Translated by Stacy Mosher and Guo Jian. Edited by Edward Friedman, Guo Jian and Stacy Mosher. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. ix-xxvi; 3-86; 487-522.

Week 9 (10/3): Cultural Revolution

Chen, Ruoxi. *The Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories from the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution*. Rev. ed. Edited by Howard Goldblatt. Translated by Nancy Ing and Howard Goldblatt. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2004. xi-xxxii; 34-61; 106-25.

Yu, Hua. "The Past and the Punishments." In *Chairman Mao Would Not Be Amused: Fiction from Today's China*, edited and translated by Howard Goldblatt, 156-171. New York: Grove Press, 1995.

White, Lynn T. *Policies of Chaos: The Organizational Causes of Violence in China's Cultural Revolution*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1989. 3-49.

Extra:

Spence, Jonathan. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. 565-586.

Week 10 (17/3): Cultural Revolution (Screening *The Blue Kite*, 1993)

Wang, Ban. *Illuminations from the Past: Trauma, Memory, and History in Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2004. 142-62.

Week 11 (24/3): June Fourth (Screening *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, 1995)

Lim, Louisa. *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. 105-32; 157-81; 206-11.

Marchetti, Gina. *From Tian'anmen to Times Square: Transnational China and the Chinese Diaspora on Global Screens, 1989-1997*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006. 219-41.

Extra:

Liu, Binyan, Ruan Ming and Xu Gang. *Tell the World: What Happened in China and Why*. Translated by Henry L. Epstein. New York: Pantheon Books, 1989. ix-x; 3-63.

Spence, Jonathan. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. 677-704.

*****Friday 25 March Short Assignment 2 Due*****

Week 12 (31/3): Tibet (Screening *Old Dog*, 2011)

Barnett, Robert. "Introduction: A Note on Context and Significance." In *My Tibetan Childhood: When Ice Shattered Stone*, by Naktsang Nulo, xv-liv. Edited by Angus Cargill. Translated by Angus Cargill and Sonam Lhamo. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.

Berry, Chris. "Pema Tsedon and the Tibetan Road Movie: Space and Identity Beyond the 'Minority Nationality Film'." *Journal of Chinese Cinemas* 10, no. 2 (2016): 89-105.

Extra:

Barnett, Robert. "DV-Made Tibet: Domestic Videos, Elite Films, and the Work of Pema Tsedon." In *DV-Made China: Digital Subjects and Social Transformations after Independent Film*, edited by Zhang Zhen and Angela Zito, 119-162. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015.

Week 13 (7/4): NO CLASS – Reading Week

Week 14 (14/4): COVID-19

TBC

Week 15 (21/4): Hong Kong Protests (Screening TBC)

Leung, Ping-kwan. *City at the End of Time: Poems by Leung Ping-kwan*. Edited by Esther M.K. Cheung. Translated by Gordon T. Osing and Leung Ping-kwan. Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP, 2012. 89-91; 115-119; 147; 197-226.

Dung, Kai-cheung. *Atlas: The Archaeology of an Imaginary City*. Translated by Dung Kai-cheung, Anders Hansson, and Bonnie S. McDougall. New York: Columbia UP, 2012. xi-xxxiii, 19-21, 31-3, 36-8, 45-7, 60-1, 73-8, 88-90, 97-9, 106-11, 118-9, 129-31, 138-40.

Abbas, Ackbar. *Hong Kong: Culture and Politics of Disappearance*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP, 1997. 1-15.

Extra:

Veg, Sebastian. "Putting Hong Kong's New Cultural Activism on the Literary Map: Review Essay." Review of *City at the End of Time*, by Leung Ping-kwan, and *Atlas: The Archaeology of an Imaginary City*, by Dung Kai-cheung. *MCLC Resource Center* (May 2013), <http://mclc.osu.edu/rc/pubs/reviews/veg.htm>.

Veg, Sebastian. "Legalistic and Utopian: Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement." *New Left Review* 92 (March-April 2015): 55-73.

*****Friday 29 April Final Paper Due*****