

Winter 2023
CHINESE 3955G 550 Special Topics in Chinese Studies
Chinese Film and Visual Culture

Instructor: Professor Sean Macdonald

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Office: A 13/ **Office Hours:— Tuesday & Thursday: 3-4 (& by appointment)**

Class time: **Tue. 13:30-14:30/Th. 12:30-14:30**

Location: **HC W112**

Description:

This course is an introduction to Chinese film and visual culture from the earliest days until the present. Chinese film and media studies are rich fields with links to literature, theater and opera, and visual art. This class invites students to watch, read, and discuss films from several periods and traditions, including *auteur* films (films by famous directors), genre films (for example, martial arts films), and animated films. This is a film and media studies course. Students will be graded on two in-class quizzes, a short response paper, and one final written essay.

Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes	Delivered through the Following Instructional Method(s):	Student Achievement Assessed with the Following Method(s)/Assignments:
1. Communicate clearly and persuasively in written and spoken English	Lecture, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises
2. Read and analyze film, media and non-print sources carefully and critically	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises
3. Use film, media, and primary and secondary sources to develop original arguments and analyses—including Chinese film sources.	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises;
4. Analyze how specific historical developments, cultural norms, socioeconomic and geographic contexts, etc. have shaped perceptions, practices of Sinophone film production, including amongst the Chinese diaspora in southeast Asia and the United States	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises
5. Articulate connections and differences among the countries and peoples of Asia with a focus on China	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises
6. Compare and contrast historical developments, philosophical traditions, cultural practices, and social and economic structures and norms of Sinophone film production.	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises.

7. Understand the terminology and methodologies of different disciplinary approaches to the study of Chinese film and visual culture.	Lecture, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises
8. Appreciate the value of greater cultural exposure to one's intellectual, professional, and personal development	Lecture, film screenings, discussion, assigned reading and writing; writing assignments; classroom workshops.	Active participation in classroom discussions; in-class writing exercises

Course Requirements: Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in a one-point reduction of your Attendance and Class Participation grade. Two lates = one absence. Justification (a medical note etc.) for any absence will be submitted *at the latest* the next class after said absence(s). **All the readings on this syllabus are required readings.** All the articles are available as downloadable files. Please see below for the required reading list. We will discuss how to download articles from the databases available through the Western Libraries home page.

Required Books for this course:

There are no required books for this course. However, there are critical readings. Author and year correspond to an author in the Chronological Bibliography. Students are expected to read these articles before coming to class. We will use these articles as a springboard into further discussion.

Course Work Overview and Grading

Attendance and participation	10%
Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Response (2 double-spaced pages (<750 words)	30%
Final paper: (5-7 pages)	40%

Grading scale:

A+	90%-100%	A+
A	80%-89%	A
B	70%-79%	B
C	60%-69%	C

D	50%-59%	D
F	<50%	F

Schedule (Tentative)

WEEK	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Jan. 10 Intro to course.	Jan.12 Intro to course (continued). What is film? Barthes, Roland 1986. Burch, Noël 1986. Zhang, 2010.
2	Jan. 17 Getting our seats Zhang Zhen 1999. Watch: <i>Laogong zhi aiqing</i> (Laborer's Love) 1922, dir. Zhang Shichuan.	Jan. 19 Laborer's Love, continued
3 *	Jan. 24 Quiz 1 Watch: <i>Red Heroine</i> (Hong Xia), d. Weng Yin Ming, 1929. Teo, 2009: 17-37.	Jan. 26 <i>Red Heroine</i> , continued.
4	Jan. 31 Watching for stars in history Dyer, 1979. Pang, 2002.	Feb. 2 Watch: <i>Shennü</i> (Goddess) 1934, d. Wu Yonggang Hjort 2010.
5	Feb. 7 Watch: <i>The Big Road</i> (Dalu), 1934 d. Sun Yu Berry, 1988. Berry, 1989.	Feb. 9 <i>The Big Road</i> , continued.
6 *	Feb. 14 Quiz 2 Watch: <i>Princess Iron Fan</i> (Tieshan gongzhu), 1941. Bao, 2015.	Feb. 16 <i>Princess Iron Fan</i> , continued.

	Macdonald, 2016.	
7	Feb. 21 SPRING BREAK	Feb. 23 SPRING BREAK
8	Feb. 28 Watch: <i>Uproar in Heaven (Danao Tiangong</i> , part 1), 1961 Bobrowska 2019.	March 2 <i>Uproar</i> (continued).
9	March 7 Costume Drama or Martial Arts? Watch: <i>The Amorous Lotus Pan</i> (Pan Jinlian) , d. Chow Sze-lok, 1963. Teo, 2009.	March 9 <i>The Amorous Lotus Pan</i> , continued. With clips from <i>Wu Song</i> , d. Ying Yunwei, Yu Zhongying, 1963.
10	March 14 Watch: <i>Dragon Inn</i> (Longmen kezhan), d. King Hu, 1967. Xu, 2007. Teo, 2009, 115-132.	March 16 <i>Dragon Inn</i> , continued.
11 *	March 21 Response Watch: <i>Red Sorghum</i> (Hong gaoliang), d. Zhang, 1986. Lu, 1993.	March 23 <i>Red Sorghum</i> , continued.
12	March 28 Watch: <i>In the Mood for Love</i> (Faa ¹ joeng ⁶ nin ⁴ waa ⁴), d. Wong Kar-wai, 2000. Wilson 2009.	March 30 <i>In the Mood for Love</i> , continued.
13	April 4 Watch: <i>A Touch of Sin</i> (Tian zhu ding) d. Jia Zhangke, 2013. Zhang, 2010. Xiao, 2015	April 6 <i>A Touch of Sin</i> , continued.

Chronological Bibliography

Barthes, Roland 1986. "Diderot, Brecht, and Eisenstein," trans. Stephen Heath, in Philip Rosen (ed.), *Narrative, Apparatus, Ideology: a Film Theory Reader*, New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 172-178.

Burch, Noël 1986. "Primitivism and the Avant-Gardes: A Dialectical Approach" in *Narrative, Apparatus, Ideology*, pp. 483- 506.

Zhang Zhen 1999. "Teahouse, Shadowplay, Bricolage: Laborer's Love and the Question of Early Chinese Cinema," in *Cinema and Urban Culture in Shanghai, 1922*: 27-50.

Hayward, Susan. *Cinema Studies the key concepts (4th ed.)*. Hoboken: Taylor and Francis, 2013.
https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044435036505163

Zhang Yingjin 1999. "Prostitution and the Urban Imagination," in Yingjin Zhang (ed.), *Cinema and Urban Culture in Shanghai, 1922-1943*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 160-180.

Dyer, Richard, & Paul McDonald. *Stars*. London: BFI Pub, 1998.

Hjort, Mette. "Ruan Lingyu: Reflections on an individual performance. in *Chinese Film Stars*. Eds. Mary Farquhar and Yingjin Zhang. Oxon: Routledge, 2010, 32-49.

Berry, Chris. "The Sublimative Text: Sex and Revolution in *Big Road* [The Highway]." *East-West Film Journal* 2, 2 (June 1988): 66-86.

Berry, Chris 1989. "Chinese Left Cinema in the 1930s: Poisonous Weeds or National Treasures." *Jump Cut*, no. 34, (March), pp. 87-94.
<http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/onlinessays/JC34folder/30sLeftChinaFilms.html>

Macdonald, Sean. "Li Lili: Acting the Lively, Jianmei Type." in *Chinese Film Stars*. Eds. Mary Farquhar and Yingjin Zhang. Oxon: Routledge, 2010, 50-66.
https://www.academia.edu/80570386/LI_Lili_Acting_a_Lively_Jianmei_Type

Pang, Laikwan 2002. *Building a New China in Cinema: The Chinese Left-Wing Cinema Movement, 1932-1937*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Beus, Yifen. "On Becoming Nora: Transforming the Voice and Place of the Singsong Girl Through Zhou Xuan," in *Vamping the Stage: Female Voices of Asian Modernity*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2017.
https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044899567005163

Palmer, Augusta. "Scaling the Skyscraper: Images of Cosmopolitan Consumption in Street Angel (1937) and Beautiful New World (1998)." In Zhen Zhang, ed., *The Urban Generation: Chinese Cinema and Society at the Turn of the 21st Century*. Durham: Duke UP, 2007, 181-204.

Macdonald, Sean. *Animation in China: history, aesthetics, media*, Abingdon, Oxon: 2016, 49-75.
https://www.academia.edu/45234670/Macdonald_Animation_in_China_Chapter_2

Bao, Weihong. "Baptism by Fire: Atmospheric War, Agitation, and a Tale of Three Cities." *Fiery Cinema: The Emergence of an Affective Medium in China, 1915–1945*, University of Minnesota Press, 2015: 317–374.

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(accessed Dec. 5, 2022).

Olga Bobrowska, "Maoist Remoulding of the Legend of Monkey King, or Analyzing Ideological Implications of Wan Laiming's *Havoc in Heaven*," in *Twisted Dreams of History. V4 Perspective on Propaganda, Ideology and Animation*, Kraków: Wydawnictwa AGH (AGH University of Science and Technology Press): 2019: 83-104.

https://www.academia.edu/40138732/Maoist_Remoulding_of_the_Legend_of_the_Monkey_King_or_Analysing_Ideological_Implications_of_Wan_Laimings_Havoc_in_Heaven

Teo, Stephen. *Chinese Martial Arts Cinema: The Wuxia Tradition*. NED - New edition, 2 ed., Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

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Vibeke Børdahl 2007. "The Man-Hunting Tiger: From 'Wu Song Fights the Tiger' in Chinese Traditions." *Asian Folklore Studies*, Vol. 66, No. 1/2, Narratives and Rituals in Asian Folk Religion and Culture (2007), pp. 141-163.

URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30030454>

Xu, Gary G. *Sinascape : Contemporary Chinese Cinema*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007.

Lu, Tonglin. "Red Sorghum: Limits of Transgression." In *Politics, Ideology, and Literary Discourse in Modern China: Theoretical Interventions and Cultural Critique*, Kang Liu and Xiaobing Tang (eds.), Durham: Duke University Press, 1993: 188-208.

Wilson, Flannery. "Viewing Sinophone Cinema Through a French Theoretical Lens: Wong Kar-wai's 'In the Mood For Love' and 2046 and Deleuze's 'Cinema,' " *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (spring 2009): 141-173.

Xiao, Jiwei. "China Unraveled: Violence, Sin, and Art in Jia Zhangke's A Touch of Sin." *Film Quarterly*, vol. 68, no. 4 (Summer 2015): 24-35.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academiccalendar/) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) Consideration on **Medical Grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: **Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)