# Asia 140 / History 140: Modern East ASIAN CINEMA

Summer 2018: July 9-August 19, 2018

ONLINE ONLY

## General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088 e-mail: Dym@csus.edu

## Catalog Description

Survey of the development of cinema in Asia, focusing primarily on cinematic masterpieces from China, Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan. Focuses on directors, actors, and studios that left a lasting mark on cinema history. Also focuses on how the Asian aesthetic sense differs from the Hollywood norm. GE: Area C1 and Writing Intensive.

## Course Description

A survey of East Asian cinema that focuses primarily on recent masterpieces from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. The course will focus on directors, actors, and studios that are leaving a lasting mark on cinema history. It will also focus on how Asian aesthetics differs from the Hollywood norm. The aim of this course is not only to introduce students to Asian motion pictures but also to use cinema as a window into Asian culture and sensibilities.

## Course Objectives

• To provide an introduction and an overview of East Asian cinema, focusing primarily on the works of recent directors.

• To acquire a greater aesthetic understanding of the differences between Chinese, Hong Kong, Taiwanese, Japanese, and Korean cinema.

• To come to a greater understanding of the cultures of East Asia that are depicted in the films and that produced them.

• To develop a critical sense and appreciation for Asian cinema.

## Requirements and Grading Criteria

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Short Answer Assignments | 6 X 20 | 120 points | 19% |
| Papers | 5 X 100 | 500 points | 81% |
| Total |  | 620 points | 100% |

Grades will be based on your overall percentage.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | C+ | 475-492 points | 77-79% |
| A | 574-620 points | 93-100% | C | 450-474 points | 73-76% |
| A- | 555-573 points | 90-92%  | C- | 431-449 points | 70-72% |
| B+ | 537-554 points | 87-89% | D+ | 413-430 points | 67-69% |
| B | 512-536 points | 83-86% | D | 388-412 points | 63-66% |
| B- | 493-511 points | 80-82% | D- | 369-387 points | 60-62% |
|  | F | Less than 368 points | 59% or below |

## The Films

You are responsible for watching the films on your own. I have selected films which at the time of writing this syllabus were either available for streaming rental through Amazon or free online through other websites. The total rental cost will be around $25. I do not care how you view the films, but it is your responsibility to view them by Thursday, since that is when the short answer assignments are due. If you have trouble viewing them you must let me know as soon as possible what the problem is.

## Think About Clips

A key aspect of studying motion pictures is in-class discussion. Since this is an accelerated summer online class, having such discussions is not possible. For several of the units I have created PowerPoint movies with slides asking you to think about something before you watch a clip. These films are designed to get you thinking about the film and larger issues. The answers to how to come up with a strong thesis for that week’s paper are contained within the films, so I HIGHLY encourage you to watch them. It is blatantly obvious in your papers when you do not.

## Short Answer Assignments

Each week there will be a number of short answer assignments based on the films and writing in general. These assignments are designed to help you think about the films and how to address the larger writing assignments. The short answer assignments are due by **Midnight Thursday.** Short Answer Assignments will be graded using the Short Answer Assignment Rubric located in Canvas.

## Papers

All papers must be between 1,000-1,500 words in length. That is roughly 3-4 double spaced pages. Use the word count function in your word processor to verify the number of words in your paper. Papers should be double-spaced using a 12 point font. Do not insert blank lines between paragraphs.

Papers will be evaluated using the Essay Rubric. **Please read it carefully.**

**Please take note that you MUST underline your thesis. Failure to do so, will result in a deduction of points.**

**There are six papers due for this course. I will count your five highest papers to determine your final grade. You may turn in only five papers if you like or you may turn in all six**. I will not accept late papers. Thus, if you fail to turn in a paper on time I will assume that you are not handing in a paper for that pair of films. All papers are due by **11:59 pm Sunday**. If you fail to hand in a paper on time, then I will assume that you are not submitting a paper for that week.

Papers should be turned in as a Word Document via Turnitin. Each week’s module/unite has a TurnItIn submission portal at the end/bottom or it.

General expectations:

• The paper must have a thesis!

• The paper must have a thesis!

• The paper must have a thesis!

• Ideally the thesis will be expressed in a well-articulated sentence in the introductory paragraph. You should lay out your argument without explicitly saying, “In this paper I am going to show. . . .”

• There should be a smooth transition of ideas between paragraphs. The paper should flow seamlessly between arguments.

• There should be a conclusion that sums up your paper and contains some insight and interpretation.

• Your paper must have a good title, NOT: “Paper # 1”

• The paper should be clearly written and free of errors, especially blatant ones like missing pages that indicate you did not proofread.

• Papers should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.

• All character’s names should be spelled correctly

**• Please look at the writing rubric before you submit your paper.**

Academic Honesty This course follows the CSUS Academic Honesty policy. If you are not familiar with California State University, Sacramento’s Policies and Procedures Regarding Academic Honesty, please read them.

In short, **CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated and may result in failure of the course and possible referral for academic discipline. If you plagiarize any part of your paper, the paper will earn an F and you will be prohibited from making up or changing that grade. I expect your papers to be your own work. If they are not, beware! Just so you know, your papers will be turned in via “TurnItIn” which searches the World Wide Web for plagiarism.

## Course Outline and Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1Unit 1July 9-15 | *The Host* | [Amazon Instant Video $2.99](https://www.amazon.com/Host-English-Subtitled-Kang-ho-Song/dp/B0026ATDQE/ref%3Dsr_1_2?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1431122124&sr=1-2&keywords=the+host)  |
| *Ip Man* | [Amazon Instant Video $2.99](http://www.amazon.com/Man-English-Subtitled-Siu-Wong-Fan/dp/B00CB3N5DS/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1431122221&sr=1-1&keywords=ip+man)  |
| **Developing an Argument****Essay Question:** Compare and contrast how foreigners—The Americans in *The Host* and the Japanese in *Ip Man*—are depicted in *The Host* and *Ip Man*. The Northerners can also be viewed as foreigners, but for this paper please focus only on the Japanese. Your essay must utilize and examine at least two examples from each film.**Paper is due: Sunday, July 15 by 11:59 pm.**  |
| Week 2Unit 2July 16-22 | *Akira*  | [Amazon Instant Video $3.99](http://www.amazon.com/Akira-English-Dubbed-Katsuhiro-Ohtomo/dp/B00G0A7KG6/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1431128729&sr=1-1&keywords=akira) |
| *Spirited Away* | <http://www.veoh.com/watch/v21054405yE2t9Mna> |
| **Sharpening an Argument****Essay Question:** Compare and contrast what the films *Akira* and *Spirited Away* say about greed and power. Your essay must utilize and examine at least two examples from each film. **Paper is due: Sunday, July 22 by 11:59 pm.**  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 3Unit 3July 23-29 | *To Live* | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8> |
| *The Blue Kite* | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5TgeqgGIt8> |
| **Subject Knowledge and Understanding****Background reading:** Chapter 27: “China Under Mao: 1949–1976” of Ebrey, Walthall, and Palais, *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, Houghton Mifflin, 2nd edition. **Essay Question:** Compare and contrast how the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution are depicted in Zhang Yimou’s *To Live* and Tian Zhuangzhuang’s *Blue Kite*. In order to make a strong argument about how the films present these two seminal events of Chinese history it is important that you have a grasp of what took place in China at the time. You are expected to read the required chapter that is located in the Week 3 Module. Your paper must show an understanding of the events in order to compare and contrast how the two films depict them. (HINT: The events of the Great Leap Forward take place during the “Uncle” segment in *The Blue Kite* and “The 1950s” in *To Live*, while The Cultural Revolution occurs in “Stepfather” and “The 1960s.”)**Paper is due: Sunday, July 29 by 11:59 pm.** |
| Week 4Unit 4July 30 - August 5 | *Chunhyang* | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvG8y3bNmgg> |
| *Chungking Express* | <http://www.veoh.com/watch/v6243282XcwtTpSs?h1=Chungking+Express> |
| **Proof Reading and Revising Your Papers****Essay Question:** Compare and contrast how Im Kwon Taek and Wong Kar-wai incorporate music into their films *Chunhyang* and *Chungking Express*. Think about the relationship between the music and the images in both films. How do the aural and the visual elements of the film interact with each other? In *Chunhynag* the music is the *pansori* chanting. Your essay must utilize and examine at least two examples from each film.**Paper is due: Sunday, August 5 by 11:59 pm.** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 5Unit 5August 6-12 | *Shower* | [Amazon Instant Video $2.99](http://www.amazon.com/Shower-Zhu-Xu/dp/B002MT17BS/ref%3Dsr_1_1_dvt_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1431129886&sr=1-1&keywords=shower) |
| *Hula Girls* | Link is provided within Canvas |
| **Thinking****Essay Question:** Social, economic, and cultural change are inevitable in the modern world, as rapid changes to our surroundings happen all around us. People adapt to the changes wrought by modernity in different ways. Compare and contrast how Da Ming in The Shower and Sensei Madoka Hirayama in Hula Girls adapt to the changes that befall their respective community (the bathhouse crowd and the coal mining town).  Your essay must utilize and examine at least two examples from each film.  **Paper is due: Sunday, August 12 by 11:59 pm.** |
| Week 6Unit 6August 13-19 | *Kung Fu Hustle* | [Amazon Instant Video $3.99](http://www.amazon.com/Kung-Fu-Hustle-Stephen-Chow/dp/B000I8ES5C/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1431129517&sr=1-1&keywords=kung+fu+hustle) |
| *My Sassy Girl* | [Amazon Instant Video $2.99](https://www.amazon.com/My-Sassy-Girl-English-Subtitled/dp/B00DUYF38W/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1499354883&sr=8-1&keywords=my+sassy+girl) |
| **Revising and Reading****Essay Question:** Compare and contrast “the Hero’s Journey” that the protagonists—Sing and Gyeon-woo (Kyun-woo)—go through in Kung Fu Hustle and My Sassy Girl. What challenges do Sing and Gyeon-woo face and how do they overcome them?  Your paper should examine at least 4 specific examples, two from each film.**Paper is due: Sunday, August 19th by 11:59 pm.** |