

# CHIN 160: CHINESE CIVILIZATION THROUGH CINEMA

## In Workflow

1. WLL Committee Chair (curtis.smith@csus.edu)
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## Approval Path

1. Wed, 05 Feb 2025 20:09:15 GMT  
Maria Mayberry (mayberry): Rollback to Initiator
2. Thu, 06 Feb 2025 06:34:10 GMT  
Maria Mayberry (mayberry): Approved for WLL Committee Chair
3. Thu, 06 Feb 2025 20:08:33 GMT  
Curtis Smith (curtis.smith): Approved for WLL Chair
4. Thu, 20 Feb 2025 22:55:24 GMT  
Jacqueline Irwin (irwin): Rollback to Initiator
5. Sat, 22 Feb 2025 00:11:17 GMT  
Curtis Smith (curtis.smith): Approved for WLL Committee Chair
6. Sat, 22 Feb 2025 00:12:26 GMT  
Curtis Smith (curtis.smith): Approved for WLL Chair
7. Sat, 22 Feb 2025 00:26:12 GMT  
Jacqueline Irwin (irwin): Rollback to Initiator
8. Mon, 24 Feb 2025 18:31:48 GMT  
Curtis Smith (curtis.smith): Approved for WLL Committee Chair
9. Mon, 24 Feb 2025 18:31:59 GMT  
Curtis Smith (curtis.smith): Approved for WLL Chair
10. Mon, 24 Feb 2025 21:50:05 GMT  
Jacqueline Irwin (irwin): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
11. Fri, 28 Feb 2025 03:17:57 GMT  
Melinda Wilson Ramey (mwilson): Approved for ALS Dean

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 18:31:18 GMT

**Viewing: CHIN 160 : Chinese Civilization through Cinema**

**Last edit: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 18:31:17 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Curtis Smith (217393749)

**Contact(s):**

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Curtis Smith	curtis.smith@csus.edu	916-278-6726

**Catalog Title:**

Chinese Civilization through Cinema

**Class Schedule Title:**

Chinese Civilization in Cinema

**Academic Group: (College)**

ALS - Arts & Letters

**Academic Organization: (Department)**

World Languages & Literatures

**Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?**

No

**Catalog Year Effective:**

Fall 2025 (2025/2026 Catalog)

**Subject Area: (prefix)**

CHIN - Chinese

**Catalog Number: (course number)**

160

**Course ID: (For administrative use only.)**

TBD

**Units:**

3

**Is the ONLY purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?**

No

**In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?**

Spring term only

**Does this course require a room for its final exam?**

No, final exam does not require a room

**Does this course replace an existing experimental course?**

No

**This course complies with the credit hour policy:**

Yes

**Justification for course proposal:**

This course will complete the curriculum needed for students to complete a Chinese minor without studying abroad. By exploring the intersections of history, culture, and cinema, students will gain a more nuanced, complex understanding of China's civilization, empowering them to engage critically with both Chinese and world history in a modern context. This course will prepare students to become informed global citizens, capable of appreciating the cultural richness of China and its place in the world today.

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 90 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

This course will explore, compare, and contrast diverse cultures of China and the role of the individual within the Chinese social context through cinema, interpreted as literary text. All films will be viewed in the original language with English subtitles. The focus will be on linguistic, cultural, and regional characteristics, values, and differences.

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

No

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Letter

**Approval required for enrollment?**

No Approval Required

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Lecture

**Lecture Classification**

CS#02 - Lecture/Discussion (K-factor=1WTU per unit)

**Lecture Units**

3

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:**

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Analyze a selection of Chinese films from literary, dramatic, and cinematic aspects.	-Discussion
2	Compare Chinese and Western cultural and social differences through Chinese cinema.	-Final Examination -Discussion
3	Articulate the influence of historical changes on Chinese society and individuals' lives.	-Final Examination
4	Evaluate, through self-reflection and cultural comparison, assumptions, biases, and stereotypes that emerge when studying a different culture.	-Reaction papers -Discussion
5	Identify the major political dynasties and cultural periods in Chinese history from archaic times to the twenty-first century.	-Discussion -Final Examination

**For whom is this course being developed?**

Majors of other Depts  
Minors in the Dept  
General Education

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

No

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

**I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.**

I/we agree

## **University Learning Goals**

### **Undergraduate Learning Goals:**

Competence in the disciplines  
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world  
Intellectual and practical skills  
Personal and social responsibility  
Integrative learning

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

## **GE Course and GE Goal(s)**

**Is this a General Education (GE) course or is it being considered for GE?**

Yes

**In which GE area(s) does this apply?**

HUM (C2)

**Which GE objective(s) does this course satisfy?**

Develop an acquaintance and understanding of cultures and major dynamic social institutions which affect one's life.  
Possess a significant and useful understanding of peoples from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, including women and ethnic and other minority groups who have been the objects of prejudice and adverse discrimination within our society.

**Attach Course Syllabus with Detailed Outline of Weekly Topics:**

CHIN160-Sample\_Syllabus.pdf

Syllabi must include: GE area outcomes listed verbatim; catalog description of the course; prerequisites, if any; student learning objectives; assignments; texts; reading lists; materials; grading system; exams and other methods of evaluation.

**Will more than one section of this course be offered?**

No

## **General Education - Area 3B: Humanities**

Section 1.

**Indicate in written statements how the course meets the following criteria for Area 3B. Relate the statements to the course syllabus and outline. Be as succinct as possible.**

**Is broad in scope or survey in nature.**

Through films from varying mainland China, British Hong Kong, and Taiwan, this course will explore, compare, and contrast diverse cultures of China, over different eras and geo-political areas, and the role of the individual within the Chinese social context through cinema.

**Develops an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of the human community.**

Although it has an unbroken history of over four thousand years, Chinese civilization and the role of the individual therein has gone through many transformations, including different ethnic, political, environmental, and geo-political changes. This course will explore the diversity of the human experience throughout these changes, always with an eye to compare and contrast the students own culture and place therein.

## **Develops a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the heritage being studied and transmits a knowledge of the Western and Non-Western cultural heritage in the humanities. Students should be able to:**

### **Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.**

This course explores, analyzes, and compares various major representative cinematic works, representing the foundations of Confucian Chinese civilization to the modern period. In the reaction papers and final exam essays, students will be required to demonstrate a basic understanding of Chinese history and the major social and intellectual changes from each era to be able to analyze the questions being discussed in each era. Through films with English subtitles, students will need to demonstrate an understanding of the Chinese perception of the individual and society in humankind.

### **Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.**

Looking back to Confucius's synthesis of the Zhou humanistic beliefs and the socio-political state, Chinese civilization has been a humanistic one, with human nature being the foundation of all morals and ideals. By viewing and analyzing major representative works of Chinese cinema, students will investigate the roles and effects of the various stages of Chinese culture on the development of the various societies of China.

### **Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.**

Chinese culture is not monolithic; Chinese conceptions of humanity have fundamentally changed over the ages, from the historical pre-imperial ages of the Shang and Zhou and the early pre-Buddhist early imperial era, to the Buddhist medieval, the neo-Confucian late medieval, and the pre-modern and modern eras. Viewing literature is the crystallization of civilization, and cinema as a contemporary genre of literature, this course will compare and analyze major representative cinematic works from the different regions on topics from a broad spectrum of Chinese civilization.

### **Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.**

This course will survey the Chinese cinema from mainland China, British Hong Kong, and Taiwan, with topics including the foundations of Chinese culture up to the modern era, examining the development of the various genres and how they served to express the ideas, values, and topics of concern of the cultures of the different ages of Chinese civilization.

### **In presenting the contribution and perspectives of people, the coursework addresses at least two of the following:**

- Women
- Ethnicity
- Socio-economic status
- Religious affiliation
- Disabilities
- Gays & lesbians
  
- Ethnicity
- Religious affiliation
- Socio-economic status

## **Includes a writing component described on course syllabus**

1) If course is lower division, formal and/or informal writing assignments encouraging students to think through course concepts using at least one of the following: periodic lab reports, exams which include essay questions, periodic formal writing assignments, periodic journals, reading logs, other. Writing in lower division courses need not be graded, but must, at a minimum, be evaluated for clarity and proper handling of terms, phrases, and concepts related to the course.

2) If course is upper division, a minimum of 1500 words of formal, graded writing. [Preferably there should be more than one formal writing assignment and each writing assignment (e.g. periodic lab reports, exams which include essay questions, a research/term paper etc.) should be due in stages throughout the semester to allow the writer to revise after receiving feedback from the instructor. Include an indication of how writing is to be evaluated and entered into course grade determination.]

Reaction papers of 500-750 words will be completed for every unit, in total four times. Reaction papers demonstrate students' understanding of the film's themes, techniques, and cultural significance.

### Section 2.

**If you would like, you may provide further information that might help the G.E. Course Review Committee understand how this course meets these criteria and/or the G.E. Program Objectives found in the CSUS Policy Manual, General Education Program, Section I.B.**

This course will focus on Chinese culture and civilization as expressed in cinema and literature. Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to explore the literary origins of major themes in the films and reflect on the cultural contexts, leading to a reflexive examination and understanding of the students' own cultural context.

**Please attach any additional files not requested above:**

CHIN160-Film\_consultation-thread.pdf

**Reviewer Comments:**

**Maria Mayberry (mayberry) (Wed, 05 Feb 2025 20:09:15 GMT):** Rollback: Revise LO4. 'Demonstrate understanding...' is too vague. Use an action verbo such as "explain," "analyze," "compare," "contrast," or "summarize".

**Emily Potts (emily.potts) (Thu, 20 Feb 2025 21:10:17 GMT):** Dear Professor Smith, The committee recommends the following changes to your proposal to facilitate future approval. Please make the suggested revisions and resubmit. I suggest that the ELO's use the words "Chinese Cinema" or "Film" as opposed to movies. As an upper division course, one or more of the course ELO's should test students on the upper levels of the Bloom's Taxonomy such as Synthesis and Evaluation. Please add additional ELO's or revise the existing set. Assessments are the same for each ELO. It is suggested to be more specific. For example, the higher level ELO's might only be tested through the Reaction Papers and Discussion. Please include the course format (in-person, hybrid etc.) in the Syllabus. Please refer to the A&L Curriculum committee resources to ensure all elements are included in the syllabus. Please attach an email indicating that you have consulted with the Film Program on the creation of this course. You only need to attach your email to them, not their reply. Best, Professor Potts

**Scott Perkins (scott.perkins) (Thu, 20 Feb 2025 21:55:25 GMT):** In addition to Emily's suggestions, I might recommend revising the course description to make it a little smoother; for example, the first sentence might read: "This course will explore, compare, and contrast diverse cultures of China and the role of the individual within the Chinese social context through cinema, interpreted as literary text."

**Jacqueline Irwin (irwin) (Thu, 20 Feb 2025 22:55:24 GMT):** Rollback: Dear Curtis, Please see suggestions for revision from Emily and Scott. Once your proposal has been revised as per their recommendations, please resubmit and send me an email so I know that your proposal is ready to move forward. Thank you, Jacqueline, ALS Curriculum Chair

**Jacqueline Irwin (irwin) (Sat, 22 Feb 2025 00:26:12 GMT):** Rollback: See email. ELOs need revision.

Key: 14836