



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

CHIN 357.04 LEC 01  
Topics in Chinese Film: Focus on a Genre  
Fall 2017  
Wednesdays 14:00 – 16:45

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Claire Huot

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Craigie Hall C-104

**OFFICE HOURS:** TU 14:00 – 15:00

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-220-6589

**E-Mail:** chuot@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**

A study of Chinese-language cinema through a historical sampling of representative genres from the musical to kungfu to docufiction. The course will consist of screenings of selected films, required weekly readings, lectures given by the instructor, film reviews presented by the students and full-class discussions.

*Please note that there is NO compulsory lab time.*

**OBJECTIVES**

To be introduced to China's national cinema as a culture-specific medium  
To get insights into the role of cinema in Chinese society and its reception abroad  
To realize the pitfalls of using film to make statements about "China"

**OUTCOMES**

To speak and write in an informed fashion about contemporary China and its cinema

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Pop quiz (4)	15%	<i>unannounced</i>
Film review (oral 1)	15%	<i>throughout semester</i>
Film review (written 2)	30%	<i>deadlines Oct. 25 &amp; Dec. 6</i>
In-class 'midterm' exam	25%	<i>Nov 22</i>
Student decides	15%	<i>throughout semester, but at latest Dec. 6</i>

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

There are assigned weekly readings, downloaded as pdfs, and posted on D2L. Films are available at TFDL or online.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Students are encouraged to consult texts used by instructor, and also to find additional sources for their assignments.

**COURSE NOTES** Students take their own.



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**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

<b>Pop quiz (4)</b> 3%, 4%, 4%, 4% = 15%	Unannounced	5-minute; short answer or multiple choice based on the material seen up to that day (non-cumulative)
<b>Film Review (oral 1)</b> 15 %	From Sept. 27 onward (Week 3-Week 13)	15-minute group presentation (3 participants max); On a previously viewed film
<b>Film Review (written 2)</b> 10% & 20% = 30%	Oct. 25 deadline  Dec. 6 deadline	Choose any <u>two</u> of the films on the list with its corresponding required reading  Paper (3-4 pages, 12 pt font, double-spaced or equivalent)
<b>Midterm (1)</b> 25%	Nov. 22	75-minute; based on the material seen up to that date (short and long-answer questions)

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**

The course consists of lectures by the instructor, presentations by the students, and in-class screenings of films. For every film, there is one required reading. Quizzes and the midterm are based on all the content viewed and discussed in class. NB: Some films /readings are subject to change.

<b>DATES</b>	<b>CONTENT (Films and assignments, etc.)</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b><u>WEEK 1</u></b> Sept. 13	Overall presentation of the course  STREET ANGELS 马路天使  1937 1h 27m  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhRdIdVMcwY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhRdIdVMcwY</a>	Carlos Rojas “Introduction: Chinese Cinemas and the Art of Extrapolation” from <i>Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas</i> [OHCC]
<b><u>WEEK 2</u></b> Sept. 20	STREET ANGELS (continued)  <b>Guidelines for oral film reviews</b>	Jason Mcgrath “Acting Real: Cinema, Stage, and the Modernity of Performance in Chinese Silent Film” from OHCC



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<p><b><u>WEEK 3</u></b> Sept. 27</p>	<p>SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN 小城之春 1948 1h 38m <b>ordered</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN_iu_1kVjA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN_iu_1kVjA</a></p>	<p>Susan Daruvala “The Aesthetics and Moral Politics of Fei Mu’s <i>Spring in a Small Town</i>,” <i>Journal of Chinese Cinemas</i>, 09/2007, Volume 1, Issue 3, pp. 171-187.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 4</u></b> Oct. 4</p>	<p>STAGE SISTERS 舞台姐妹 (aka TWO ACTRESSES) 1965 1h 54m <b>ordered</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYfME4FwWTg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYfME4FwWTg</a> film is segmented in 4 parts on Youtube <b>Oral presentations begin</b> Chinese Mid-Autumn festival: Oct.4</p>	<p>Gina Marchetti “<i>Two Stage Sisters: The Blossoming of a Revolutionary Aesthetics</i>,” <i>Jump Cut</i>, no. 34, March 1989, pp. 95-106.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 5</u></b> Oct. 11</p>	<p>A TOUCH OF ZEN 侠女 1972 3h 20m TDFL DVD <b>ordered</b> <b>Guidelines for written film reviews</b></p>	<p>Héctor Rodríguez “Questions of Chinese Aesthetics: Film Form and Narrative Space in the Cinema of King Hu,” <i>Cinema Journal</i>, Fall 1998, 73-93.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 6</u></b> Oct. 18</p>	<p>A TOUCH OF ZEN (continued)</p>	
<p><b><u>WEEK 7</u></b> Oct. 25</p>	<p>YELLOW EARTH 黄土地 1984 1h 31m <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEqfyZGYVrM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEqfyZGYVrM</a> <b>Deadline for first written review</b></p>	<p>Esther C.M. Yau “Western Analysis and a Non-Western Text,” <i>Film Quarterly</i>, vol. 41, 1988, 22-33.</p>



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<p><b><u>WEEK 8</u></b> Nov. 1</p>	<p>FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE 霸王别姬  1993 2h 51m  TDFL DVD</p>	<p>Jenny K.W. Lau “<i>Farewell My Concubine: History, Melodrama, and Ideology in Contemporary Pan-Chinese Cinema,</i>” <i>Film Quarterly</i>, vol. 49, 1995, 16-27.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 9</u></b> Nov. 8</p>	<p>FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE  (continued)</p>	<p>Ben Xu “<i>Farewell My Concubine and Its Nativist Critics,</i>” <i>Quarterly Review of Film and Video</i>, 16:2, 155-170.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 10</u></b> Nov. 15</p>	<p>IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 花樣年華  2000 1h 38m  TFDL DVD</p>	<p>Audrey Yue “<i>In the mood for love: intersections of Hong Kong modernity</i>” from C. Berry, ed. <i>Chinese Film in Focus: 25 New Takes</i>, 128-136.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 11</u></b> Nov. 22</p>	<p><b>MIDTERM</b>  <i>NO class after : )</i></p>	
<p><b><u>WEEK 12</u></b> Nov. 29</p>	<p>A TOUCH OF SIN 天注定  2013 1h 35m  TFDL DVD</p>	<p>Yanjie Wang “<i>Violence, Wuxia, Migrants: Jia Zhangke's Cinematic Discontent in A Touch of Sin,</i>” - <i>Journal of Chinese Cinemas</i>, 2015, 159-172.</p>
<p><b><u>WEEK 13</u></b> Dec. 6</p>	<p>Final presentations  <b>Deadline for second film review</b></p>	



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	<b>Deadline for student-led project</b>	
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**GRADING METHOD/GRADING SCALE**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>G.P.V.</b>	<b>Grade Definition</b>
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

NB: Please refer to the **COURSE OUTLINE** for info on Academic Misconduct; Disabilities and Academic Accommodation and other miscellaneous resources and notes.