

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

MST 327/ HIS 382C: East Asian History through Film
TR 3:30pm - 5:45pm, MCVR 028

Spring Semester 2014

Instructors:

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Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50am and by appointment

Introduction:

How is Modern East Asia “modern” and how is modernity in this region represented in film? This course will examine the history of Japan, South Korea, Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam through significant feature films produced in these modern nation-states. The course will also explore the cultural and cinematic concerns of artists involved in the production of films depicting the modern transformation of East Asia with reference to the emergence of anti-colonial nationalist and communist movements, as well as related intellectual and social developments since the late imperial era.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use critical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
2. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources.
3. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.
4. Recognize individual Asian directors and the cinematic styles in their films.
5. Better appreciate the distinct nature of each national culture, as well as the similarities and connections among them.
6. Formulate an internationally informed perspective of the dominant cultures of Asia.
7. Gain a better perspective of the United States through comparisons with Asian cultures.

Course Requirements:

There will be a take-home final exam, seven in-class “half-hourly” quizzes (including an ungraded skills quiz), a 6-8 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins, paginated) “Think Piece” paper, and four two-page response papers. The paper will be due in class on **THURSDAY, 6 MARCH**. The schedule for the seven in-class quizzes and the response papers is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **THURSDAY, 24 APRIL** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **THURSDAY, 1 MAY**. Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. **The completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.**

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL READINGS, HANDOUTS, INFORMATION PROVIDED IN CLASS. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR IN-CLASS QUIZZES AND THE FINAL EXAMS.

Grading:

Skills Quiz		<i>Ungraded</i>
5 Graded Quizzes	30%	(6% each)
Class Participation (class discussion, general participation)	10%	
Paper (6-8 pages)	20%	
Take Home Final Exam	20%	
4 Response Papers (2 pages)	20%	(5% each)

Quizzes:

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. All assigned readings will be addressed, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. **No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

Response Papers:

Film screenings will take place during Tuesday or Thursday class meetings throughout the semester. Prior to each screening, you will receive film-guide handouts featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. Each of the four response papers will give a personal view of your reactions to some aspect of a specific film. This can be about the narrative style, your reactions to the values and traditions depicted in comparison to your own, the way your views of the culture you saw depicted changed after watching the film, etc. These response papers must contain examples from the film to support your views and the basics of style, grammar, and punctuation are included as part of your grade. *Chicago Manual of Style* formatting is **required** for all papers turned in for this class. Please see the following site for references (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). A thorough response requires a minimum of two pages of text. **These responses must be submitted in class and posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard.** Due dates are listed on the course schedule and on the Blackboard forums themselves. **All film responses are required assignments.**

*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

Paper:

Papers must be 6 – 8 pages and contain at least 8 references, and of these 6 sources must be from academic sources, such as books and articles, and 2 may be from non-academic sources, such as on-line blogs. If you have a question about a source, please see me before you use it. The quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading.

Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Final Take-home Examination:

There is a 6 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions one week before the exam due date. The exams will be due in my office (MRHA 2111) no later than 3pm on **THURSDAY, 1 MAY**. We'll talk more about this exam and specific requirements later during the semester. The take-home exam will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant and the Professor. **Late exams will receive no credit.**

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Two unexcused absences allowed. The third cut will place you on mandatory attendance. Following the fourth unexcused absence you will be dropped from the class at ANY TIME during the semester.

You are expected to be on time for class. After the third late arrival (10 minutes after the beginning of class) your grade will be lowered by one third of a letter grade for EACH late arrival.

Excused absences MUST be validated by a doctor's note. In case of a death of family, friends, and loved ones, documentation must be provided in the form of obituaries and relationship to the deceased.

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE CHANGES MAY OCCUR FOR VARIOUS REASONS DURING THE SEMESTER. IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION TO KEEP UP WITH THE CHANGES. THIS MEANS MANDATORY ATTENDANCE.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Please refer to the *UNCG Undergraduate Bulletin/Graduate Bulletin*.

Special Accommodations:

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, <http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>, ods@uncg.edu. If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, please talk with me before the end of the second week.

Website:

This class is served by a companion Blackboard site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. I also have created a web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the quarter progresses. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class site periodically for such materials.

Required Texts:

The following books are required reading for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore:

1. Holcombe, Charles. *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780521731645.
2. Vick, Tom. *Asian Cinema: A Field Guide*. New York: Collins (in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution), 2007. ISBN: 9780061145858.

Important note: During the course students will be required to subscribe to the on-line commercial site Netflix (<https://signup.netflix.com/?locale=en-US>), so that they may review required and recommended films from the course.

*All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the course Blackboard site, distributed in class, or made available through various web-sites.

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve in the Jackson Library. Prior to and after the day they are viewed in class.

SEMESTER LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK'S TOPIC	FILMS AND READINGS
UNIT I: JAPAN	
14-16 January: RASHOMON	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 148-158. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , Intro. and pp. 37 -52
21-23 January: CITY OF LIFE AND DEATH (Clips from JAPANESE DEVILS)	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 255-275.
SKILLS QUIZ, Tuesday 21 January	Ungraded, but <u>required</u> of all students
28-30 January: SPIRITED AWAY	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 277-294. Essay: Samantha "Inëz" Chambers, MFA Student, UNCG at http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/communications/research/ Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 82-86.
UNIT II: SOUTH KOREA	
4-6 February: JOINT SECURITY AREA	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 295-300. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 145-147, 157-161. Assignment: Please watch OUTSIDE OF CLASS, either in closed reserve in Jackson Library or direct streaming, <i>Cinema Asia: South Korea (DV8700)</i>.
GRADED QUIZ 1, Tuesday 4 February	
RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS	FEBRUARY 4
11-13 February: THE HOST	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 302-312.
UNIT III: CHINA	
18-20 February: HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 91-108. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 2-21, 246-247.
GRADED QUIZ 2, Tuesday 18 February	
RESPONSE PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS	FEBRUARY 18
25-27 February: TO LIVE	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 313-330. Film Reading: Interview with Zhang Yimou (Blackboard Course Documents).

4-6 March: STILL LIFE	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 343-347. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 30-34.
THURSDAY, 6 MARCH	PAPER DUE IN CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD (“SAFE ASSIGN”)

SPRING BREAK: 11-13 March, No Class Meetings.

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
UNIT IV: TAIWAN	
18-20 March: WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 335-343. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 195-207, 215-218.
GRADED QUIZ 3, Tuesday 18 March	
RESPONSE PAPER #3 DUE IN CLASS	MARCH 18
25-27 March: CITY OF SADNESS	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 335-343.
UNIT V: HONG KONG	
1-3 April: ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 332-335. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 114-133.
GRADED QUIZ 4, Tuesday 1 April	
RESPONSE PAPER #4 DUE IN CLASS	APRIL 8
8-10 April: CHUNG KING EXPRESS	History Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , pp. 332-335. Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 134-139.
UNIT VI: VIETNAM	
15-17 April: AFTER THE FALL	History Reading: <i>Eastern Asia</i> , pp. 233-244. (Blackboard Course Documents) Film Reading: <i>Asian Cinema</i> , pp. 238-243.
GRADED QUIZ 5, Tuesday 15 April	
22-24 April: NOSTALGIA FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE	History Reading: <i>Eastern Asia</i> , pp. 233-244. (Blackboard Course Documents)
THURSDAY, 24 APRIL	FINAL CLASS MEETING. FINAL EXAMS DISTRIBUTED.
THURSDAY, 1 MAY	FINAL EXAM DUE BY 3 PM in MHRA 2111

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www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions