

0501A231P

Contemporary Chinese Cinema

Instructor: TBA

Time: December 29, 2025 - January 16, 2026

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Study Level: Undergraduate

Credits: 4

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

This course explores the contemporary Chinese cinemas in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan over the past decades. Emphasizing on film contexts, film texts, and cinematic techniques, the course invites students to a broad cinematic analysis. Through viewing a selection of internationally known Chinese films which reflect China's history, culture, society, and aesthetic conventions, students will have a deeper understanding of China's rich culture, values, and history, as well as practice critical thinking skills in appraising the cultural narratives of each selected film and the aesthetic presentation produced by the key Chinese film directors. We will pay attention to issues of national, cultural, gender identities, tradition and modernity, cross-cultural communication, globalization, etc.

Prerequisites

None. Students are recommended to take introductory Contemporary Chinese culture and history courses before taking this course.

Required Textbook(s)

Reading materials will be provided by the instructor.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts of this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week I

- Introduction to contemporary Chinese film history
- Post-modern Cinema of Attractions
Film Screening: *Big Shot's Funeral* (2001)
- Industry and censorship
Film Screening: *No Man's Land* (2013)
- City Memories and National Myth
Film Screening: *Farewell My Concubine* (1993)

Discussions

Quiz 1

Week II

- Cultural Migrancy and Translatability
Film Screening: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000)
- Idealism and Identity
Film Screening: *To Live* (1994)
- Visualization Ellipses and Absence
Film Screening: *Flowers of Shanghai* (1998)
- Commercial Film
Film Screening: *Lost in Thailand* (2012)

Discussions

Quiz 2

Week III

- Golden age of Hong Kong Comedy Films
Film Screening: *King of Comedy* (1999)
- Hong Kong Martial Art Films
Film Screening: *The Myth* (2005)
- Taiwan New Wave
Film Screening: *Yi Yi* (2000)

Discussions

Analysis Paper

Presentation

Grading Policy

Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Analysis paper	40%
Final Presentation	30%
Total	100%

Quizzes:

There will be 2 quizzes. Each Quiz is worth 10%. Students are expected to demonstrate good understanding of films, lectures, and related readings.

Analysis Paper:

Students will be required to choose a theme and write an analysis paper (minimum 8 full pages, double-spaced, 12-point New Times Roman font). The paper shall be submitted on Friday of the last week.

Presentation

Students will be required to prepare a presentation individually with PowerPoint slides on one of the course-related topics provided by the instructor in the first week of class. Each student is given 5-10 minutes to present and answer clarification and other substantive questions from the audience.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing,

i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.