

CHIN 3090: Introduction to Modern Chinese Literature and Film

Spring 2012

Syllabus

Instructor: Li Guo

Office Hrs: TTR, 9:00--10:30 AM, 002B Old Main

Class 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm TR Merrill-Cazier Library 405

Weekly Film Screening: TR 4:00-6:30pm, place to be confirmed.

Instructor Email: li.guo@usu.edu

Course description:

When we read stories or watch films, we encounter other people's lives through these written or visual narratives. We choose to identify or empathize with some of them, take a critical stance to reflect on the characters, or study how these stories or films represent people and cultures to audiences from different cultures, communities or countries. In this class, we will learn about modern China and Chinese people by reading or watching their stories. From everyday life stories taken place in the courtyards to well-known authors' short speeches, from fifth-generation films on rural China to contemporary documentaries of urban culture and rock & roll, these textual and visual materials direct our gaze toward the profound social transformations in modern and contemporary China. In addition to up-to-date reading materials, a wide range of contemporary Chinese films will be screened weekly. Students are encouraged to participate in pairs or groups in content-based, collaborative tasks in class. Creative input, consistent performance, and timely accomplishment of assigned homework are important for this course.

Textbook:

Qin-Hong Anderson. *Masterworks Chinese Companion: Expressive Literacy Through Reading and Composition* 名作导读与写作. Cheng & Tsui Company: Boston, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-88727-435-0 . The textbook contains both traditional and simplified versions of all the stories.

All film materials will be put on media reserve in the library. Supplementary material will be uploaded on Blackboard.

Recommended Materials:

Chinese-English, English-Chinese dictionaries

The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary: Chinese-English Edition. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2002.

Rick Harbaugh. *Chinese Characters: A Genealogy and Dictionary*. Taipei: Zhongwen.com, 1998.

On-line dictionary

<http://www.nciku.com>

Course Requirements:

- Attendance-----10%
- Quizzes (2% each, instructor will take the best 5 out of 6)-----10%
- Film comment posting (1% each)-----10%
- Papers (500 characters, 10% each, 3 total)-----30%
- Film Review (500-750 characters, 1 total)-----10%
- Oral presentation (10 minutes, 1 total)-----10%
- Portfolio-----5%
- 1 Final-----15%

End of semester grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages of the total number of points:

A = 93 - 100%	C = 73 - 76%
A- = 90 - 92%	C- = 70 - 72%
B+ = 87 - 89%	D+ = 65 - 69%
B = 83 - 86%	D = 60 - 64%
B- = 80 - 82%	D- = 55 - 59%
C+ = 77 - 79%	F = 54% or less

Students with ADA-documented impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. Accommodations are coordinated through DRC in Rm 101 of the University Inn, 7-2444 voice, 7-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact DRC as early as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Attendance:

Regular attendance of the class is important and highly related to a student's performance in class. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences or 5 absences in total, whether excused or unexcused, you will suffer a loss of 10% of your total grade, and are very likely to fail in this course. In case of illness, emergency, or university activities, please notify me by email in advance, and submit an official university excused absence sheet when you return to class.

Quizzes:

In total, there will be 6 quizzes. Students will be informed of the dates of the quizzes, and have the chance to drop the lowest 1 grade. I will count the best 5 quizzes for your 20% grade for quizzes in total. There is NO make-up quiz in this course.

Portfolio 5%:

Your portfolio, essentially, is a collection of records of your study in this class throughout the semester. Each student should create his or her individual portfolio, containing the following items in order:

- Quizzes, 6 total;
- Three papers;
- One film review.
- Handouts for instructor's in-class exercises.
- A self-reflection essay in Chinese summarizing your performance over the semester, 300 words.

Film comment posting 1%:

From the films that we watch you will choose to post 10 comments on our course site on Canvas; the comments can be casual in format, and is around 50 characters. The content of the comment should reflect the films screened in class and show your opinions or specific thoughts about the films' theme, character, visual effect, social significance or embedded moral message.

What May Lower Your Grade?

A. If you fail to hand in an assignment on its due date, the grade for that assignment would be lowered by one letter "degree" (eg: B+ to B). (For details about homework/ assignment, see below).

B. Failure to show up at the time of a quiz will lead to an automatic **zero** for that quiz. (For details about quizzes, see below).

C. Serious absence (over 3 unexcused absences or over 5 absences in total either excused or unexcused) will lead to a 0% grade for your 10% attendance grade. To prevent this from happening, I will inform you when you use up your unexcused absences.

Participation: Class participation includes attendance, timely submission of assignments, active involvement in classroom activities. Be sure not to schedule appointments and the like during class time to insure that you do not miss any classes.

Meeting with the Instructor: Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss their individual interests and concerns. For instance, for the oral presentation assignment, students are strongly recommended to meet with the instructor about their interested topics. A sign-sheet will be circulated beforehand. In the meantime, you can always sign up for meetings during my office hours. (Check the sign-sheet on my office door, 002 B Old Main.) If you cannot make for my office hours, please email me to set up an appointment.

Classroom etiquette: The relationship between the students and the instructor is one of dual respect. Please pay particular attention to the following rules. 1) Be punctual for the class. 2) Set your cell phone on vibration before the class. 3) Internet surfing or using cell phone during class times is not allowed. 4) If you need to leave the classroom shortly during the class time, ask permission from the instructor first.

Late Work: Usually late work is not accepted. If you know that you will miss class ahead of time due to a school-sponsored activity, please talk with me ASAP.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

Problems:

If at any time you have a concern about the class, course policies, other students, or me, please come and talk with me.

Week/Day		Contents	Assignments Due
I.	Jan. 10	Introduction: 自我介绍, 小游戏	预习第一课
	Jan. 12	L1: 落花生 Film: 我的父亲母亲 <i>The Road Home</i>	
II	Jan. 17	L1 continued.	Film post 1.
	Jan. 19	Quiz 1. Film: 十七岁的单车 <i>Beijing Bicycle</i>	预习第二课
III	Jan. 24	L2 母亲的教诲	L1: 二,四,五,六 Film post 2.
	Jan. 26	L2 continued. Film: 最好的时光 <i>Three Times</i>	
IV	Jan. 31	L2 continued. Quiz 2	Film post 3 预习第三课
	Feb. 2	L3 差不多先生 Film: 海角七号 <i>Cape No.7</i>	L2: 三,四,五, 六
V	Feb. 7	L3 continued	Film post 4 Paper 1 workshop.
	Feb. 9	L3 continued Film: <i>Down: Indie Rock in the PRC</i> Quiz 3	预习第四课 Paper 1 due.
VI	Feb. 14	L4 立志做大事	Film post 5 L3: 三,四,五,六

	Feb. 16	L4 continued Film: 站台 <i>The Platform</i>	L4 Post on blackboard. Paper 1 workshop.
VII	Feb. 21	Monday's schedule no class.	Film post 6 Paper 1 due.
	Feb. 23	L4 continued. Film: 上海妈妈 <i>A Mother in Shanghai</i>	L4: 三,四(2),六
VIII	Feb. 28	Instructor provides reading exercises.	Film post 7
	Mar. 1	Reading exercises. Film: 团圆 <i>Apart Together</i>	预习 / 复习第五课
IX	Mar. 6	L5 匆匆	Film post 8 Paper 2 workshop.
	Mar. 8	L5 continued. Film: 阮玲玉 <i>Center Stage</i>	Paper 2 due.
X	Mar. 12-16	Spring break, no class.	
XI	Mar. 20	L5 continued. Quiz 4	Film post 9 预习第六课
	Mar. 22	L6 春 Film: 钢的琴 <i>The Piano in A Factory</i>	L5: 三,四,五,六
XII	Mar. 27	L6 continued.	Film post 10 L6 Post on blackboard.
	Mar. 29	L6 continued. Quiz 5	Paper 2 due in class. 预习第七课

		Film: 三峡好人 <i>Still Life</i>	
XIII	Apr. 3	L7 背影	Film post 11 L6: 三,四,五,六
	Apr. 5	L7 continued. Film: 如果·爱 <i>Perhaps Love</i>	Paper 3 workshop.
XIV	Apr.10	L7 continued. Quiz 6	Paper 3 due. Film post 12
	Apr.12	L8 最苦与最乐 Film: 图雅的婚事 <i>Tuya's Marriage</i>	L7: 二, 三,五,六
XV	Apr.17	L8 continued.	Film post 13
	Apr. 19	L8 continued. Film: 观音山 <i>Buddha Mountain</i>	Film review due.
XVI	Apr. 24& 26	Review for Final Exam: Instructor provides exercises.	Film post 14
XVII	Final Exam	May 3 Thursday, 1:30-3:20 p.m.	