

# CHIN 3090: Modern Chinese Literature and Film, 15



Instructor: Li Guo [li.guo@usu.edu](mailto:li.guo@usu.edu)  
12:00 - 1:15 pmTR, Lib 164

Office Hrs: TTR 8:30-9:30am, 002B Main  
Screening: TR 4:00-6:00pm, room TBA.

## Course description:

“A movie can be a fantasy or it can be a realistic depiction of society. At the same time, a film is a memory.” China-based director Jia Zhangke observes. When watching films, we encounter people’s memories recorded in sound and image. Film becomes a part of people’s historical experience. In this class, we will learn and understand the social trends and customs in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, by reading stories and watching movies about these diverse and stimulating cultural locales. From Hong Kong martial art movies to contemporary Taiwanese cinema, from folk stories to suspenseful thrillers, Chinese language literature and visual arts direct the viewers’ gaze toward the profound social transformations in modern and contemporary Chinese language regions and cultures. 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, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-88727-435-0. Films are at the media reserve in library (1<sup>st</sup> floor North end).

## Recommended 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.

## Course Requirements:

Attendance-----	10%
Quizzes (1% each, 5 total)-----	5%
Weekly post (150 characters, 2% each, 10 total)-----	20%
Paired teaching demo -----	5%
Film review (500 characters, 3 total, 10% each)-----	30%
Oral presentation -----	15%
Portfolio-----	5%
Final-----	10%

End of semester grades are based upon the following percentages:

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

### Attendance:

Attendance of the class is very important. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. Each additional absence is 2% reduction. In case of illness, emergency, or university activities, please notify me by email, and submit an official university excused absence sheet when return to class.

### Quizzes:

There are 5 quizzes. You are informed of the dates of the quizzes, and are allowed to make up 1 quiz.

### Portfolio 5%:

Your portfolio 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 posts :

From the films that we watch you will choose to post 10 comments on Canvas; the comments can be casual in format, and is 150 characters. The comment should reflect the films screened that week and show your thoughts or criticism about the theme, character, visual effect, social significance or moral message.

### 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.

### 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 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.

## 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."



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或许一切都会过去  
幸好，那些闪过的光  
将永远留在你的  
生命中  
回忆里

(Weekly Schedule Next Page)

	Contents	Assignments
Jan. 8 TR	<b>L1: 落花生</b> <b>HK Martial Art: <i>Once Upon a Time in China</i></b> 黄飞鸿	Introduction
Jan. 13 T	L1 continued	Post 1
Jan. 15 TR	L1 continued <b>HK Martial Art: <i>Ashes of Time</i></b> 东邪西毒	Quiz 1
Jan. 20 T	<b>L2 母亲的教诲</b>	Post 2
Jan. 22 TR	L2 continued. <b>New Taiwanese Cinema: <i>Taipei Exchanges</i></b> 第 36 个故事	
Jan. 27 T	L2 continued.	Post 3
Jan. 29 TR	<b>L3 差不多先生</b>	Quiz 2
Feb. 3 T	L3 continued <b>New Taiwanese Cinema: <i>Jump Ashin!</i></b> 翻滚吧，阿信！	Post 4
Feb. 5 TR	L3 continued <b>Suspense &amp; Detective Films: <i>Black Coal, Thin Ice</i></b> 白日焰火	
Feb. 10 T	<b>L4 立志做大事</b>	Post 5
Feb. 12 TR	L4 continued <b>Suspense &amp; Detective Films: <i>Detective Dee</i></b> 神探狄仁杰	Paper 1 due
Feb. 17 T	Monday's schedule no class (^_^).	Post 6
Feb. 19 TR	Reading exercises. <b>Reflections on Cultural Revolution: <i>Coming Home</i></b> 归来	Quiz 3
Feb. 24 T	Instructor provides reading exercises.	Post 7
Feb. 26 TR	<b>L5 匆匆</b> <b>Reflections on Cultural Revolution: <i>Evening Rain</i></b> 巴山夜雨	预习 / 复习第五课
Mar. 3 T	L5 continued.	Post 8
Mar. 5 TR	<b>Fifth-Generation Classic: <i>Woman Demon Human</i></b> 人鬼情	Quiz 4

	Mar. 9-13 Spring break, no class (^_^).	
Mar. 17 T	L5 continued.	Post 9
Mar. 19 TR	<b>L6 春</b> <b>Fifth-Generation Classic: <i>Farewell My Concubine</i></b> 霸王别姬	Paper 2 due
Mar. 24 T	L6 continued.	Post 10
Mar. 26 TR	L6 continued. <b>Women Filmmakers: <i>A Simple Life</i></b> 桃姐	Paper 2
Mar. 31 T	<b>L7 背影</b>	
Apr. 2 TR	L7 continued. <b>Women Filmmakers: <i>Buddha Mountain</i></b> 观音山	Quiz 5
Apr. 7 T	L7 continued.	
Apr. 9 TR	<b>L8 最苦与最乐</b> <b>Six-Generation Filmmakers: <i>Mountain Patrol</i></b> 可可西里	
Apr. 14 T	L8 continued.	
Apr. 16 TR	L8 continued. <b>Six-Generation Filmmakers: <i>Johnnie Walker</i></b> 语路计划	
Apr. 21 & 23	Review for Final	Paper 3 due.
	Final: April 28, T, 11:30-1:20.	

