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CHIN 391.01: Chinese Culture Through Films

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The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

CHIN 392: Chinese Culture through Films

Spring 2022

SYLLABUS

(Subject to Adjustment with Notice)

Instructor: Dr. Zhen Cao

Office: LA 438

Phone: 243-2791

Class Room: LA 303

Class Meets: TU & THUR 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Email: zhen.cao@mso.umt.edu

Office hours: T,TH 11am to 12 noon

General Introduction

This experimental course is constructed in an attempt to introduce students the Chinese culture through films. The major aspects to be covered are: the Chinese mythology of creation, chronological outline of the Chinese dynasties, the fundamental religions and philosophies underling the Chinese culture and the modern China. The course will be carried out in two formats: film showing and seminars.

Students Learning Outcomes:

1. To get familiar with the Chinese cinematography of the 20th Century, the major works and ways of presentation and expression.
2. To learn and understand the beliefs and values of the different segments of the Chinese culture, and how they are reflected in their behavior, their multi social roles and lives as shown in the films.
3. To understand the complexity of the patterns of relationships governed by the believing system between people and government; poor working class and upper elite class; between people to people and people to nature.
4. To learn to be able to observe and critique China's current political, economic, cultural and social issues, and also the issues in its relationships with the rest of the world.
5. To enrich the students in their appreciation of the Chinese films as a form of art and representation of the history and culture.

Evaluation

1. Attendance and class participation 20 points
Students are expected to attend each class and actively participate in class discussion or group presentations. Three absences are allowed for the semester. Each absence thereafter is subject to point deduction in the grading.
2. Three response paper, 30 points
Every four weeks, students are expected to submit a 2-page paper in response to one of the films watched in class.
3. Group presentations 20 points
Students are expected to work in groups and three class presentations.
4. Cultural tests (2) 15 points each.
5. Extra Credit. 6 points
Film report (2), 3 points each.

Further Important Information:

1. This course uses pluses and minuses in its grading. The lowest credit-receiving grade is D minus,; the highest possible course grade is a straight A, not A+.
2. Note that you need to select the traditional grading option if you are planning to have this course count toward fulfillment of the Chinese Minor and/or General Education requirements.
3. Auditors: Anyone auditing the class must formally enroll as an auditor.
4. Anyone with a learning or medical disability and in need of special arrangements must inform us of this fact at the beginning of the course. People with such disabilities must provide documentary proof of their status.

Tentative Schedule:

1. Week 1 (Jan 18th)
Tuesday
Introduction, goals and expectations.
Group assignment 1:
*Light & Shadow, and Sound
*Light in the West and Shadow in the East
*hand-shadow game/show;
*donkey-skin show;
*puppet show;
*silent movie;
*Cartoon movie;
*films/movies;

Film-movie

(a) Butterfly (2014 Spring Festival)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flJenF59iU0&list=PLXQgvG0bchMPADx-aHI51g0sAG_4mMrBk

(b) Blue and White China

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVPfi10rupA>

(c) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AizamOIZijs&list=PLwXMmy5fUrVy5KgYQXJZB2cw46texpb9l> a bite of China 01

Thursday

Class discussion on the eight topics

(a) Donkey skin show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C6m3aKjzLk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3sI1IvO6Jw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIAazFE6wSM> theatre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s3u8bPZfLU> to live (25:15) (102:02)

2. Week 2 (Jan 24th)

Tuesday

Group presentation: Chinese puppet show, introduction history, Pangu (Chinese version of creation), Nuwa (creation of mankind), Story of Nuwa and Fuxi, Silent movies in 1920s.

THUR:

a. All China's dynasties explained in 7 minutes (5,000 years of Chinese history)

b. History of China's Empires Qin, Han, Xin Dynasties History Documentary

c. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFNzX3tYTXU> All China's Dynasties explained in 7 minutes

d. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpUm2ZbUMDY> History of China's Empires Qin, Han, Dynasties

THUR:

3. Week 3 (Jan. 31st)

TU: **Chinese New Year Four Beauties:**

Nian, the Monster

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uJbp8d_d9c

Second version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhfHcJSNhYU>

Chinese Zodiac

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaToB_neb3M

Four beauties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Peq36VnkvZI>

Chinese new year family traditions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noiouIzjJZE>

Discussion

THUR: The Hero 英雄

(The Emperor and Assassin 荆轲刺秦王)

4. Week 4 (Feb. 7th)

TU: Discussion on “The Hero”

TRUR: Red Cliff. 赤壁

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd0bqLQrtdE&list=PLMPw126NjQUqJplFRvZNK6_aofseqZLBk&index=2 clips with English sub

https://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNjq4MjgzNzU2.html?spm=a2h0k.11417342.soreults.dposter&s=ae4058dceddb11de97c0 whole movie with no English sub

5. Week Five

TU : Discussion on “Red Cliff”

THUR: A Journey Westward 西游记

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cImkkgd6234> Tangming Huang. 15 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85pih3fyrqI&list=PLIj4BzSwQ-sfc7l2xm1wQswAd5jqrrDS&index=4> Xiyou Ji 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1IXHCqTVIs&index=40&list=PLIj4BzSwQ-sfc7l2xm1wQswAd5jqrrDS>

Xi you ji 40

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3KNpyKILHM&list=PLIj4BzSwQ-sfc7l2xm1wQswAd5jqrDS>

6. Week 6 (Feb. 21st)

TU:

Discussion on “the Journey Westward” Tang Dynasty and Buddhism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO7NHZJ-eE4> Song Dynasty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiOVb56eWLg> Qingming Shanghe Tu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fdVhGeOsfQ> Yuan Dynasty 5 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yzjmUBDARK> Yuan Dynasty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1Kx9wsi9Vc> Ming Dynasty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PuGvMZW1h4> Ming and Qing dynasties

THUR: The Last Emperor 末代皇帝

https://v.yoRuku.com/v_show/id_XMzk0ODg1NTgyNA==.html?spm=a2h0k.11417342.soresults.dplaybutton&lang=英语

7. Week 7 (Feb.28th)

TU:

Discussion on “The Last Emperor”

THUR: Family. 家

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg5qhme_s_w 1941

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4LppbkC1hE> 1953

<https://www.bilibili.com/video/av3244188/> 1956 with English subtitle

TH: Discussion

8. Week 8 (March 7th)

TU:

Discussion on Post Qing Dynasty and Modern China

“The New Culture” (May 4th) Movement

THUR: Raise the Red Lantern 大红灯笼高高挂
TH : Test One,
Discussion

9. Week 9 (March 14th)

TU: Discussion on “Raise the Red Lantern”
THUR:
Test One

10. Week 10

Spring Break No Class

11. Week 11 (March 28th ,)

TU ; White Haired Girl 白毛女

TH : Discussion

“White Haired Girl

First & Second Civil Wars,

The Communism Movements in China

Land Reform in the Communist Revolutionary Bases

The Second World War

12. Week 12 (April 4th)

TU: Red Sorghum. 红高粱

TH: Discussion

13. Week 13 (11th ,)

TU: To Live 活着

TH: Discussion

14. Week 14 (April 18st)

TU: Blue Kite 蓝风筝

TH: Discussion

15. Week15 (April 25th)

TU: Farewell My Concubine 霸王别姬

TH: discussion

16. Week 16 (May 2rd)

TU: Not One Less 一个也不能少

TH: Test Two,

Discussion