CHT XXXX: Chinese Film

COURSE INFORMATION
Day and Time: TR, 11:00am-12:15pm
Location: EDU 316
Course Number: 87541
Credit hours: 3 credit hours

Instructor
Dr. Eric Shepherd
Department of World Languages
College of Arts and Sciences
Office: Cooper 436
Phone: (813) 974-3635
Fax: 874-1718
E-mail: erics@usf.edu
Office hours: T, 3:30-4:30PM and by appointment

Course Description
Chinese Film is a survey of Chinese film taught in English and open to all majors. This course traces the development of Chinese film and the Chinese film industry from its beginnings in the early 1900s through the contemporary period. Through film viewings, readings, lectures, and discussions students will gain a broad understanding of Chinese film and its role in Chinese culture and society.

Course Objectives
The overarching goal of this course is to introduce students to Chinese film through viewing, readings, lectures, and discussions. Important aspects of Chinese culture as reflected in film will be highlighted throughout the course so that students gain a deeper understanding of both mainstream Chinese popular culture and Chinese cultural norms. A secondary goal of this course is to explore how major Chinese political and historical trends, events, and figures are reflected in contemporary Chinese films so that students develop the ability to identify and analyze modern Chinese social and political trends as reflected in film.

Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to identify major representative directors, genres, actors, actresses and trends associated with the Chinese film industry. Through lectures, film viewings and class discussions, students will be able to critically view Chinese movies from both Chinese and comparative perspectives. Students will demonstrate a deeper understanding of both mainstream Chinese popular culture and Chinese cultural norms gained through film viewings, readings, and discussions. By exploring Chinese culture through the lens of film, students will gain an understanding of how Chinese view the world and will be able to identify cultural themes and values important in contemporary China. Students will be able to apply their newly developing
understanding of Chinese culture to assess and analyze current events from different perspectives and will be able to articulate their views on Chinese film, culture and society in a manner that facilitates sustained interaction with people from China. Upon completion of the course, students will have formed a rudimentary understanding of the historical development of film in China and how that development shapes contemporary Chinese movies and popular culture.

**Required Texts**


Additional readings will be placed on the course Blackboard site.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Grade Scale</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-67</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chinese Film may be taken S/U provided prior arrangements are made with the instructor. An “I” grade will only be given under extreme medical emergencies supported by written documentation.

Your performance will be assessed based on the following assignments:

- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Film Response Papers (X5): 25%
- Movie Review: 5%
- Term Paper: 20%
- Oral Presentation of Course Project: 10%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

**Assignments**

Class lectures present historical, cultural and social background information intended to situate movies in a broader context. Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the class period for which they are listed and are intended to supplement class lectures. Class discussions revolve around representative films selected for independent out-of-class viewings. Assigned viewings are to be completed independently prior to the class period for which they are scheduled. All films to be viewed will be placed on reserve at the USF Chinese Cultural Center (HMS 214).
Midterm/Final
The midterm and final will consist of a combination of identification, short answer and short essay questions. The final will be cumulative, though emphasis is placed on material covered in the latter half of the course. The midterm will take place during week seven and the final will be conducted during final exam week according to the official university exam matrix.

Film Response Papers
Response papers will be 2-3 pages (typed, double-spaced pages) and will be submitted according to the dates listed on the syllabus. NO LATE RESPONSE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR GRADE. Each student is required to submit five (5) responses to required out-of-class film viewings. The daily schedule will list the films to be viewed and the dates each response is due. Films will be either placed on reserve at the main library or made available online.

Movie Review
Each student will choose a Chinese movie that is not on the required viewing list to view independently. The must be a movie produced in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan. After viewing the film, write a 2-3 page review of the movie as if you were a professional movie critic for a local newspaper.

Term Paper
Each student will choose a topic for a course project in consultation with the instructor. After a topic is selected, the student will conduct independent research about the topic. A 8-10 page term paper based on the research project will be submitted by the Monday of the final week of classes. Include a cover page and a bibliography that follows Chicago Manual of Style conventions and cites at least 5 non-internet based sources (i.e., books, articles, etc.)

Oral Presentations
Each student will give a 5-7 minute oral presentation of the independent research project during the final week of classes. Although oral in nature, presentations should include audio/visual aids such as Power Points, outlines, film clips, and/or handouts.

Attendance and Participation
Students are expected to have read all assigned readings prior to the class to which they pertain and thus should be prepared to ask and answer questions about them. Active participation in class discussion and activities (or lack of) will be noted and will affect your participation grade. Quizzes on assigned content may be given at any time if the instructor deems them necessary (i.e., if significant numbers of students in the class are regularly absent and/or not prepared or have not done assigned readings prior to class). Quiz scores will count towards the attendance and participation grade. Students who anticipate missing classes when graded assignments are scheduled
because of a religious holiday are expected to notify the instructor prior to the absence so that arrangements can be made to make up the assignments.

Course Policies

Disability Accommodations:
Any student with a disability is encouraged to meet with me privately during the first week of class to discuss accommodations. Each student must bring a current Memorandum of Accommodations from USF’s Students with Disabilities Services; this is a prerequisite for receiving accommodations. Accommodated examinations through Students with Disabilities Services require two weeks notice.

Student Conduct and Academic Dishonesty:
Students are expected to read the University’s Undergraduate Catalog regarding policies on student conduct, academic dishonesty, etc.: www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

Taping of Classes
Arrangements can be made for students with documented learning disabilities to tape class lectures. Otherwise, the taping and sale of class lectures is not permitted.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1:
T: Introduction to course and the study of Chinese cinema
   **Readings:** Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 1

R:
   **Lecture:** *The Road Home*
   **Readings:** Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 2
   **Viewing:** *The Road Home*

Week 2:
T: **Class Discussion:** *The Road Home*
   **Lecture:** *Call for Love*
   **Readings:** Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 3

R:
Class Discussion: Call for Love
Lecture: If You Are the One
Readings: Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 4
Viewing: Call for Love

Week 3:
T:
Class Discussion: If You Are the One
Lecture: Go LaLa Go
Readings: Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 5
Viewing: If You Are the One
R:
Class Discussion: Go LaLa Go
Lecture: Life Show
Readings: Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 6
Viewing: Go LaLa Go

Week 4:
T:
Class Discussion: Life Show
Lecture: Farewell My Concubine
Readings: Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 7
Viewing: Life Show
R:
Class Discussion: Farewell My Concubine
Lecture: Cell Phone
Readings: Berry/Farquhar: Chapter 8
Viewing: Farewell My Concubine

Week 5:
T:
Class Discussion: Cell Phone
Lecture: A World Without Thieves
Readings: Chow: Chapter 1
Viewing: Cell Phone
R:
Class Discussion: A World Without Thieves
Lecture: Red Sorghum
Readings: Chow: Chapter 2
Viewing: A World Without Thieves

Week 6:
T:  
**Class Discussion:** Red Sorghum  
**Lecture:** Lust, Caution  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 3  
**Viewing:** Red Sorghum  

R:  
**Class Discussion:** Lust, Caution  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 4  
**Viewing:** Lust, Caution  

Week 7:  
T:  
**Midterm Review**  

R:  
**Midterm Exam**  

Week 8:  
T:  
**Lecture:** To Live  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 5  

R:  
**Class Discussion:** To Live  
**Lecture:** The Banquet  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 6  
**Viewing:** To Live  

Week 9:  
T:  
**Class Discussion:** The Banquet  
**Lecture:** Red Cliff  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 7  
**Viewing:** The Banquet  

R:  
**Class Discussion:** Red Cliff  
**Lecture:** Sacrifice  
**Readings:** Chow: Chapter 8  
**Viewing:** Red Cliff  

Week 10:  
T:
Class Discussion: Sacrifice
Lecture: Aftershock
Readings: Chow: Chapter 9
Viewing: Sacrifice

R:
Class Discussion: Aftershock
Viewing: Aftershock

Week 11:
T:
Class Discussion: Not One Less
Lecture: Days of Being Wild
Viewing: Not One Less

R:
Class Discussion: Days of Being Wild
Lecture: Showers
Viewing: Days of Being Wild

Week 12:
T:
Class Discussion: Showers
Lecture: Li Shuangshuang
Viewing: Showers

R:
Class Discussion: Li Shuangshuang
Lecture: Heroes of the Little Eighth Route Army
Viewing: Li Shuangshuang
Week 13:

T:
Class Discussion: Heroes of the Little Eighth Route Army
Lecture: Ermo
Viewing: Heroes of the Little Eighth Route Army

R:
Class Discussion: Ermo
Lecture: House of Flying Daggers
Viewing: Heroes of the Little Eighth Route Army

Week 14:

T:
Class Discussion: House of Flying Daggers
Lecture: Let the Bullets Fly
Viewing: House of Flying Daggers

R:
Class Discussion: Let the Bullets Fly
Lecture: Post 2010 Cinema in China
Viewing: Let the Bullets Fly

Week 15:

T:
Student Presentations

R:
Student Presentations/Final Exam Review