Textbooks

Required:


- Short Story:
  - “Iron Child” by Mo Yan (Nobel Laureate in Literature of 2012; Red Sorghum film script is based on his novel)
  - “Escape” by Su Tong (Raise the Red Lantern film script is based on his novella, Wives and Concubines.)
  - “The Accident” by Gao Xingjian (Nobel Laureate in Literature of 2000)

Films

1. Red Sorghum
   Zhang, Yimou
   1987
   87 minutes
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IjnwHdG-BQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IjnwHdG-BQ)

2. Crazy Racer
   Ning Hao
   2009
   105 minutes
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbXPqGC65Cw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbXPqGC65Cw)

3. Farewell My Concubine
   Chen, Kaige
   1993
   157 minutes
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC-_SLiRnJE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC-_SLiRnJE)

4. Beijing Bicycle
   Wang, Xiaoshuai
   2001
   113 minutes
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjljUMHxBOQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjljUMHxBOQ)

5. Comrades, Almost a Love Story
   Peter Chan
   1997
   128 minutes
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2iAsrqpZRw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2iAsrqpZRw)

6. Eat Drink Man Woman
   Ang Lee
   1994
   124 minutes
   [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vicBx-okC3k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vicBx-okC3k)

7. Cape No.7
   Wei, Tei-sheng
   2008
   129 minutes
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Kc-QDv8DU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Kc-QDv8DU)

Additional Film Recommended
Grade
Students’ final **1000 points** are the resultant sum of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Synopses and Film Reviews</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Discussion Board Posting</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Bonus point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Project</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter Grade

- 925 and above: A
- 850-925: A-
- 800-850: B+
- 750-800: B
- 700-750: C
- 600-700: D

Rules

1. **Discussion Board**: Students are required to post their film and reading comments to weekly Discussion Boards in order to participate in discussions on the assigned readings and films. Each student has to post a comment to the weekly Forum by creating his/her own Thread under the title of a selected textbook chapters, online topic-oriented resources, or the selected feature film/animation; student also need to respond to at least one of other students’ postings on weekly basis. In other words, each student will have to post a Thread to Discussion Forum and respond to another student’s Thread posting. Each weekly Discussion Board is 30 points. Students are encouraged to post questions/answers to the Open Discussion Board Q&A sections. 5 Bonus points will be given to each well received Open Discussion Thread posting and to each good answer which respond to other students’ questions.

   Each of the student’s Thread should correspond to the weekly subject heading that specifies the title and key concept of the selected reading/viewing assignments. The length of Thread is 100-150 words and the length of responses is not limited but preferably 50-100 words. Please also rate 1-5 starts to other students’ Thread postings. Students are not expected to post their full Turnitin assignments of Film Review or Final Paper to Discussion Board Forums; instead, keen observations on issues raised by the authors or the filmmakers are expected.

2. **Quizzes**: There will be 2 Blackboard online quizzes posted following the weekly film viewing and reading assignments. Multiple Choices will test students on their knowledge about Chinese cinema, historical backgrounds of the films, key concepts, and socio-political representations. 10-20 multiple choice questions will be used to test students on their understanding of the selected films and readings.

3. **Film Reviews**: There are seven film synopsis and reviews assigned; the due dates are assigned in the following course calendar. Sample film reviews are posted via Blackboard Course Material. Students may choose to watch
the films at home by finding available online resources or watch in the library (by checking out from Library Video Reserve). Each Film review will be limited to the format of 3-5 page, double-spaced, and font size 12. Students have to specify what cultural representations have been included in the film, how the cultural images are portrayed, uncover the implicit assumptions of the filmmakers, demonstrate their general ability to use reason (both inductive and deductive), identify fallacious reasoning, specify if s/he recommends the film or not and explain why s/he recommends or will not recommend the films, and present their own original argumentations. The Film Reviews are writing assignments to be turned in via Turnitin.

4. Video Project “China, Cinema, and I”: Students will make a 4-7 minute short films and post the film to class YouTube course site ‘MLL3611’. The topic of the video assignment is “China and I in Cinema” and it is a creative project. All formats including video clips, filming, photos, audio, and mixed are welcome. An instructor’s sample video is provided on the class YouTube site, MLL3611.

5. Final Paper: Students will determine their topics for Final Paper based on their specific interests and focuses. Students are encouraged to synthesize two of their Film Reviews and to elaborate their specific discussions on certain issues. The final paper should be 6-10-page in length and a comparative study of two (or more) films of New Chinese Cinema. Students may choose one of the films outside of the course viewing list but has to provide comparison with at least one to the course selected films. At least two quotes from the reading assignment, “History of China,” selected short stories, and history of Regional Chinese Cinema, should be included in the final paper. Final Paper is due by midnight on the Friday of Final Examination Week.
# Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Texts &amp; Films</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><strong>Blackboard introduction</strong></td>
<td>check syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7-1/13</td>
<td><strong>Film 1: <em>Red Sorghum</em></strong>  Dir. Zhang, Yimou,</td>
<td><strong>Discussion Board #1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chapter 1: “Defining modern Chinese Culture” by Kam Louie</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading: Short Story “Iron Child” by Mo Yan</strong> <em>(Nobel Laureate in Literature of 2012; Red Sorghum film script is based on his novel)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td><strong>Film 2: <em>Crazy Racer</em></strong>  Dir. Ning, Hao</td>
<td><strong>Discussion Board #2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/14-1/20</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 2: “Social and Political Developments: the Making of the Twentieth-century Chinese State” by Peter Zarrow</strong></td>
<td>Film Review #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading: Short Story “Escape” by Su Tong</strong> <em>(Raise the Red Lantern film script is based on his novella, Wives and Concubines.)</em></td>
<td>Due on 1/14 at 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td><strong>Film 3: <em>Farewell my Concubine</em></strong>  Dir. Chen, Kaige</td>
<td><strong>Discussion Board #3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21-1/27</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 3: “Historical Consciousness and National Identity” by Prasenjit Duara</strong></td>
<td>Film Review #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Due on 1/21 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Film 4: <em>Beijing Bicycle</em></strong>  Dir. Wang, Xiaoshuai</td>
<td><strong>Discussion Board #4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/28-2/3</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 8: “Socialism in China: a Historical Overview” by Arif Dirlik</strong></td>
<td>Film Review #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading: Short Story “The Accident” by Gao Xingjian</strong> <em>(Nobel Laureate in Literature of 2000)</em></td>
<td>due on 1/28 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>QUIZ #1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Quiz due on 2/10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4-2/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 6 2/11-2/17 | **Film 5:** *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*  Dir. Peter Chen  
Chapter 5: “Ethnicity and Chinese Identity: Ethnographic Insight and Political Positioning” by William Jankowiak  
Chapter 15: “Cinema: from Foreign Import to Global Brand” by Chris Berry | **Discussion Board #5** |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| **Week 7 2/18-2/24** | **Film 6:** *Eat Drink Man Woman*  Dir. Ang Lee  
Chapter 7: “Modernizing Confucianism and ‘New Confucianism’” by Sor-Hoon Tan  
Chapter 4: Gender in Modern Chinese Culture by Harriet Evans | **Discussion Board #6** |
| **Week 8 2/25-3/3** | **Film 7:** *Cape No.7*  Dir. Wei, Tei-sheng  
Chapter 10: Languages in a modernizing China by Ping Chen  
Chapter 13: Music and performing arts: tradition, reform and political and social relevance by Colin MacKerras | **Discussion Board #7** |
| **Week 9 3/4-3/10** | **Quiz #2** | **Film Review #7 due on 3/4 11:59PM** |
| **Week 10 3/11-3/17** | **Bonus Video Project Due 3/18** | **Discussion Board #8** |
| **Final Week 3/18-3/24** | **Final Paper Due  
*Due at midnight on 3/24*** | |

5
Course Objective:

MLL 3611 New Chinese Cinema (in English Translation) New Chinese Cinemas analyzes the changing forms and significance of filmmaking in the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong since the end of the Cultural Revolution and the beginning of New Cinema movements in the 1980s, with a particular emphasis on how film comments on the profound social changes that have occurred in Greater China (PRC, Taiwan and Hong Kong) over the past three decades. Considering in detail both conservative and progressive stances on economic modernization and cultural globalization, it also demonstrates how film has been an important formal structure and social document in the interpretation of these changes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. The course traces the cultural transformation that took place over the course of the turn of the centuries, and paints a picture of China rich in cultural diversity. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the principles, methodologies, value systems, and thought processes employed in human inquiries because this wide-ranging cinematic studies demarcates the Chinese cultural terrain by examining cinematic time across historical periods and the scripts adopted from literature, as well as critical theories.

2. Students will demonstrate in their oral and written work an understanding of the cultural endeavors and legacies of human civilization. Form the course material, including the weekly reading assignments and online resources, the course will include weekly Discussion Board discussions grouped into 9 topics associated with 7 films by prominent filmmakers and 2 stories that two of the films adopted from. There will be 3 online exams, and 7 short Film Review papers and one Final Paper via Turnitin on Blackboard. All selected reading materials, including the textbook “The Cambridge Companion to Modern Chinese Culture,” the two short stories by Mo Yan, and the sample film reviews are in English translation, as well as the films are with English subtitle/caption. With the background cultural information introduced and examples provided that reviewed the raging critical debates about the public sphere, the academy, intellectual identity, cultural politics, and economic globalization. Students will be able to apply the knowledge in their oral (Discussion Board) and written works to examine the Chinese appropriation and reinvention of discourses of modernity, postmodernity, and postcoloniality.

3. Students will demonstrate their ability to discuss, deliberate, and write about opposing viewpoints in an insightful and logical manner, to present an opposing side fairly, and to criticize the argument rather than attacking the person. Students are required to post their comments to weekly Discussion Boards in order to participate in discussions on the assigned readings and films. Each student has to post a comment to the weekly Forum by creating his/her own Thread under the title of a selected film and reading with a discussion concept; student also need to respond to at least one of other students’ postings on weekly basis; the instructor will monitor the discussions, deliberations, and responses and provide comments to the various viewpoints. For Discussion Board, Film Review, and Final Paper writing/critical thinking assignments, students have to specify what cultural aspect has been included in the film and apply one critical aspect from the reading materials; they will have to discuss, deliberate and write about how the cultural images of China are portrayed in the films, uncover the implicit assumptions of the filmmakers/authors, demonstrate their general ability to use reason (both inductive and deductive), and present and defend their own original argumentations.

4. Students will demonstrate their developing intellectual curiosity and a habit of lifelong learning, through
choice of research topics, the number and quality of questions asked in class, the application of course concepts or themes to lived experiences or world events, or through other similar means. Particularly the final paper assignment that has to be a comparative study of two (or more) sources on the cinematic and cultural representation of Modern and Post-modern China. Student may revise from the film synopsis-reviews and the Discussion Board postings for the comparative study of New Chinese Cinema. In the paper assignment, in addition to the requirement of comparing the cinematic representations in two or more films, student need to specify how the cultural images are portrayed over time and across genre, uncover the implicit assumptions of the representations, demonstrate their general ability to use reason (both inductive and deductive), identify fallacious reasoning, and present and defend their own original argumentations. Final paper should be a comparative study of two (or more) resources and concepts of the cultural representation of Modern and Post-modern China. Students are encouraged to further establish their interpretation, criticism, and reflection on current events or life experience in comparison with the selected material.

5. The reading and assignments, exams, short review papers, and final paper preparation are in accord with SLO and ILO requirements. Instructor will be available for questions online and in-person during the scheduled office hours or by appointment. Assessments will focus on content of ideas to ensure critical thinking and reasoning, communication of ideas and investment of social justice and equity are embedded within student discussions and writing. All participation and assignments will be graded to encourage students to take charge for their learning.

6. The reading and assignments, exams, short review papers, discussion board postings and final paper preparation support students’ development of advanced critical thinking competencies. The course materials and discussions focus on content of ideas to ensure critical thinking and reasoning, including the general ability to use reason (both inductive and deductive), the ability to identify fallacious reasoning, and the ability to present one’s own original argumentation. Exams, short review papers and final comparative study paper indicate the assessments focusing on the evaluation on argumentation skills that include:

- The ability to weigh proffered evidence
- The ability to uncover the implicit assumptions of others
- The ability to reconstruct and evaluate complex arguments encountered in the course of reading and discussion within the discipline(s)
- The ability to frame one’s own positions logically and coherently
- The ability to construct one’s own persuasive arguments in support of carefully considered positions
- The ability to defend this position against thoughtful objections
- The practice of thinking and arguing in the mode of a practitioner of a particular discipline or disciplines
- The practice of applying the special concepts and theories developed in the particular discipline or disciplines

7. Each of the student’s Thread on Blackboard Discussion Board should correspond to the weekly subject heading that specifies the title and key concept of the selected film. The length of Thread is 100-150 words and the length of responses is 50-100 words. Each Film Review will follow the format of 1-3 pages, double spaced, and font size 12. Final Paper will be 5-8 pages and will follow the MLA format of double spaced, font size 12, and references. The overall writing assignments, including Discussion Board postings, Exams, Film Review short papers, and Final Paper exceed the minimum 4500 words requirement. Instructor’s feedback to the writing assignments will help student to develop Rhetorical Knowledge and writing process skills and to achieve the goal of demonstrating advance writing competency.