

Chinese 4031 Chinese-Language Cinema

Spring 2019 Syllabus

Class hours: MWF 12:20 pm - 1:10 pm

Classroom: Swann 320

Instructor: Jin Liu, Ph.D. (Liú Lǎoshī) email: jin.liu@modlangs.gatech.edu

Office: Swann 312; office phone: 404-385-0194 (email contact recommended)

Office hours: MWF 1:10pm -2pm

Course Description

This advanced level course utilizes Chinese films as authentic texts to enhance students' language learning skills as well as to broaden their knowledge in Chinese culture, philosophy, history, and society. 8 films are carefully selected, and include a variety of genres: urban melodrama, martial arts film, historical epic, costume drama, comedy, and red classics. The topics include Chinese folk legend of the butterfly lovers of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, the three Song Sisters' extraordinary lives and their strong influence on modern China, Master Yip Man's life during the Sino-Japanese war, the multiple perspectives of Cultural Revolution, the revolutionary canon of White Haired Girl and its post-socialist consumption, the changing family (father-son) relationship and the issue of traditional culture in contemporary China, and last but not least, Bruce Lee's legacy and Stephen Chow's martial arts comedies.

The pace is about five classes per film. Regular attendance is absolutely required. **Three** unexcused absences will automatically lower one level of your grade. You are responsible for devoting 1-2 hours of study outside of class for each hour in class. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Georgia Tech's Honor Code.

Course Objectives

This advanced course will further sharpen students' Chinese skills by learning more vocabulary, grammar points, idioms, classical and literary expressions, street slangs, proverbs -----written and spoken registers in the advanced level. Through film discussion and analysis, the course will also aim to advance students' intellectual growth and sharpen their critical thinking skills, so that they will be able to examine issues associated with Chinese culture, history, and society both from an intercultural perspective and with an open mind.

Grading

1. Attendance and Class Participation/Discussion (20%)

- 1) Arrival in the classroom more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early (without permission of the instructor) will result in being marked absent. If you must leave the class early please notify the instructor before the start of the class.
- 2) Each **five latenesses** will be treated the same as one missed class. **Three** unexcused absences will automatically lower one level of your grade.
- 3) You are expected to actively participate in the drills, conversation practices, discussions, and other class activities. Each attendance and participation accounts for 0.5 point.
- 4) If for any reason the instructor is late you will be required to wait ½ hour before you can assume the class will not be held and you are free to leave.

2. Vocabulary List and Discussion Questions (3X8=24%)

Prior to studying each film, students are required to watch the film carefully in advance and submit a sheet which includes three parts:

1. A brief list of the words/grammars you recognize (10 or more)
2. A list of the words you have just learned from watching the film (10 or more, with pinyin, meaning, and an example sentence)
3. At least two discussion questions about the film. Please try to come up with interpretive questions that could be discussed in class. The questions should reflect careful viewing of the film and an effort to analyze it

看电影，学中文 is a major component of this course. Please note this portion accounts for about ¼ of your total grade.

3. Quizzes (4X8=32%)

A quiz on key vocabulary, expressions, and film content will be given for each film, 8 in total.

4. Response Essays (15+3=18%)

- 1) 3 essays are required, roughly 400-500 characters
- 2) the topics and questions will be posted after each film
- 3) essays to check on the students' engagement of the class discussion and understanding/analysis of the film
- 4) Present your response essay which has been edited by the instructor and corrected by yourself.

Grading Criteria: critical thinking and argument articulation (30%); research (30%), grammar and vocabulary that you've applied correctly and creatively in your writing (30%); and word length (10%).

5. Midterm Group Project (3%)

Each group presents one episode of Stephen Chow's film, *Kungfu Hustle* 《功夫》

- 1) to select a 3-4 minute clip from your assigned 19-minute segment. The selected clip should have sufficient and interesting dialogue for close reading, learning, and analysis.
- 2) to make a transcript for the short clip.
- 3) to teach the clip and lead discussion in class

6. Lesson Presentation (3%)

Each student will have an opportunity to do a lesson presentation on a suggested topic.

Grading: Breadth and Depth of Content and Research (50%), Language Accuracy (30%); Organization and Structure (10%), and Effective Q&A Techniques (10%).

Film List

- 《洗澡》 (Shower, 1999), 92 min.
- 《叶问》 (Ip Man, 2008), 106 min.
- 《阳光灿烂的日子》 (In the Heat of the Sun, 1995), 134 min.
- 《功夫》 (Kungfu Hustle, 2005), 100 min.
- 《白毛女》 (White Haired Girl, 1951), 130 min.

《梁祝》(The Lovers, 1998), 107 min.
 《宋氏三姐妹/宋家王朝》(The Soong Sisters, 1997), 145 min.
 《活着》(To Live, 1994), 133 min.

Ga. Tech Scale: 100—90 A; 89—80 B; 79—70 C; 69—60 D; 59—0 F.

**Note: minimum grade for “pass” if taking this class pass/fail is 70 (C).
 Both syllabus and schedule are subject to change.**

Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	In class	Homework due
1	1/7	Go over the syllabus, starting 《洗澡》	
	1/9	《洗澡》 language study	
	1/11	《洗澡》 language study	List of words and questions
2	1/14	《洗澡》 language study	
	1/16	《洗澡》 quiz, film discussion	
	1/18	《洗澡》 student presentation, film discussion	
3	1/21	M.L.K Holiday	
	1/23	李小龙的电影 Group research on Li's bio, his Wing Chun gongfu style, and Li's martial arts philosophy	
	1/25	《叶问》 language study	List of words and questions
4	1/28	《叶问》 language study	
	1/30	《叶问》 language study	
	2/1	《叶问》 quiz, film discussion	
5	2/4	《叶问》 student presentation, film discussion	
	2/6	《阳光灿烂的日子》 language study	Essay 1 due
	2/8	《阳光灿烂的日子》 language study	List of words and questions
6	2/11	《阳光灿烂的日子》 language study	
	2/13	《阳光灿烂的日子》 quiz, film discussion	
	2/15	《阳光灿烂的日子》 student presentation, film discussion	
7	2/18	《功夫》 mid-term project	List of words and questions
	2/20	《功夫》 project presentation	
	2/22	《功夫》 language study, quiz	
8	2/25	《功夫》 film discussion	
	2/27	《白毛女》 language study	
	3/1	《白毛女》 language study	List of words and questions
9	3/4	《白毛女》 language study	
	3/6	《白毛女》 quiz, film discussion	
	3/8	《白毛女》 student presentation, film discussion	
10	3/11	《梁祝》 language study	Essay 2 due
	3/13	《梁祝》 language study	
	3/15	《梁祝》 language study	List of words and questions
11	3/18	Spring Break!	
	3/20	Spring Break!	
	3/22	Spring Break!	

12	3/25	《梁祝》 quiz, film discussion	
	3/27	《梁祝》 student presentation, film discussion	
	3/29	《宋氏三姐妹》 language study	List of words and questions
13	4/1	《宋氏三姐妹》 language study	
	4/3	《宋氏三姐妹》 language study	
	4/5	《宋氏三姐妹》 quiz, film discussion	
14	4/8	《宋氏三姐妹》 student presentation, film discussion	
	4/10	《活着》 language study	
	4/12	《活着》 language study	List of words and questions
15	4/15	《活着》 language study	
	4/17	《活着》 quiz, film discussion	
	4/19	《活着》 student presentation, film discussion	Essay 3 due
16	4/22	Essay Editing Day	
	4/24	Final Presentation	