CEAS XXX
Contemporary East Asian Cinema
Preliminary Syllabus

Winter Session 2019
Class Time (includes one screening per session): 1-5pm, 7-11pm
Professor: Lisa Dombrowski
Office Hours: as indicated
Email: ldombrowski@wesleyan.edu

This is a seminar on comparative narrative and stylistic film analysis that focuses on contemporary pictures from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, South Korea, and Japan, regions that have produced some of the most exciting commercial and art cinema in the past 30 years. We will begin by examining narrative and stylistic trends at work in the region and by considering individual films in a historical and industrial context. We will then develop our film analysis skills via formal comparison of the aesthetics of individual directors working in both popular and art cinema traditions. Each class meeting will include a screening plus lecture and discussion, as well as break time.

Prior to the beginning of winter session, students will watch several video lectures introducing key analytical concepts, complete course readings, screen paper assignment films, and create two plot segmentations and a shot breakdown of a film scene in preparation for future assignments. All course material, including video lectures, readings, assignments, and assignment films, will be available via course Moodle by the beginning of winter break.

Assessment will be based on participation in discussion, in-class exercises, two 6-7p. analytical papers, and a group presentation.

The course has no prerequisites and is open to all students. The course does not count toward completion of the Film Studies major.

Tues. Jan 8

Introduction
*Peking Opera Blues* (TSUI Hark, 1987, 104 min)

Narrative Structure/Causal Plots
*He’s a Woman She’s a Man* (Peter CHAN, 1994, 107 min)
Wed. Jan 9

Narrative Structure/Episodic Plots
Chungking Express (WONG Kar-wai, 1994, 102 min)

Narrative Structure/Multiple Strand Plots
The Power of Kangwon Province (HONG Sang-soo, 1998, 110 min)

Thurs. Jan 10

Office hours: noon-1pm, 5-6pm

Narrative Structure/Forking Path Plots
Too Many Ways To Be No. 1 (WAI Ka-fai, 1997, 90 min)

Narrative Structure/Slice of Life Plots
Dust in the Wind (HOU Hsiao-hsien, 1986, 109 min)

Fri. Jan 11

OFF

Sat. Jan 12

Afternoon:

OFF

Evening:

*Paper #1 due

Editing/Pause-Burst-Pause
Fong Sai-yuk (YUEN Kuei, 1993, 100 min)

Sun. Jan 13

Editing/Elliptical
Sonatine (KITANO Takeshi, 1993, 94 min)

*Class dinner

Constructing Space/Ozu
Early Summer (OZU Yasujiro, 1951, 124 min)
Mon. Jan 14

Constructing Space/To
*The Mission* (Johnnie TO, 1999, 84 min)

Office hours: 5-6pm

Staging the Long Take/Mizo
*The Life of Oharu* (MIZOGUCHI Kenji, 1952, 148 min)

Tues. Jan 15

Office hours: noon-1pm

Staging the Long Take/Hou
*City of Sadness* (HOU Hsiao-hsien, 1989, 157 min)

Evening:

OFF

Wed. Jan 16

OFF

Thurs. Jan 17

*Paper #2 due*

Narration
*Good Men, Good Women* (HOU Hsiao-hsien, 1995, 108 min)

Narration
*Yi Yi* (Edward YANG, 2000, 173 min)

Fri. Jan 18

Lee Hyun-ju
*Our Love Story* (LEE Hyun-ju, 2016, 99 min)

Tsai Ming-liang
*The Hole* (TSAI Ming-liang, 1998, 95 min)
Sat. Jan 19

Kore-edo Hirokazu
Nobody Knows (KORE-EDA Hirokazu, 2007, 141 min)

Lee Chang-dong
Burning (LEE Chang-dong, 2018, 148 min)

Sun. Jan 20

Office hours: noon-1pm, 5-6pm

Wong Kar-wai
Ashes of Time (WONG Kar-wai, 1994, 100 min)

Kitano Takeshi
Fireworks (KITANO Takeshi, 1997, 103 min)

Mon. Jan 21

OFF

Tues. Jan 22

OFF

Wed. Jan 23

*Class lunch

*Final presentations due

Course Policies and Etiquette:

- Attendance at each class is mandatory for the entire course period. Role will be taken. Unexcused absences and repeated lateness will adversely impact your discussion grade and thus your final grade.

- Papers are due in class at the time and date noted. No extensions will be granted except in the event of a medical emergency.
• No talking or texting during the screenings. You are expected to take notes during the screening and to watch the credits. We will be discussing films in detail during class. Hold on to your credit sheets.

• Please come to class on time ready to participate. Bring your screening notes, offer your views, and ask questions. If you sit silently in class (even with perfect attendance) you will not get full credit for participation. If you do not enjoy or are not used to speaking in public, come talk with me early in the semester about options.

• Our time together is an opportunity to create a communal learning experience. The more focused and respectful we are of our time together, the more productive our experience and the greater the possibilities for discovery. To that end, please observe the following courtesies during class:
  o If you’re talkative, be mindful of allowing others the chance to speak; if you tend to be quiet, rise to the occasion of helping carry the conversation.
  o Disagree with your classmates and professor, but do not disrespect them.
  o Have no communication with anyone outside of class during class.
  o Go to the bathroom before class and during breaks: folks coming and going is disruptive—including during films.

• You are welcome to use your laptop or tablet as an aid for class work. Please do not use them for email, the internet, or writing papers during class. Please be sure to turn phones off before class.

• Please conduct yourself according to the principles of academic honor detailed in the university regulations. For more information see: http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/20152016studenthandbook.pdf

• Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources located in North College, room 021, or call 860-685-
5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.