

CAH5739: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHINESE- LANGUAGE FILM AND FICTION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in Chinese-language Film and Fiction

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

5739

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course explores the dynamic relationship between Chinese-language film and fiction, focusing on their formal styles, thematic concerns, aesthetic strategies, and ideological functions. Through close analysis, students will examine how literary works are reimagined through cinematic language and how film, in turn, offers new interpretations of literature. Moving beyond adaptation, the course engages with broader theoretical questions about the interplay between text and screen. Students will be introduced to key methodologies from literary and film studies, gaining essential concepts, terminology, and analytical tools. By the end of the course, they will be prepared to conduct original, interdisciplinary research across both media forms.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the thematic, literary and/or cinematic properties of a given fictional and/or film text.	x		
2	Describe and articulate an informed understanding of the social and historical contexts in film and literary production.	x	x	
3	Design research questions on issues relevant to the themes and content of the course.	x	x	x
4	Apply original research findings in writing and oral presentations.	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage with weekly lectures with class discussion.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Tutorial group Presentation	Students will engage with group presentation on an assigned reading or topic with class discussion.	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	In-class discussion	1, 2, 3	25	-	No
2	Oral and written presentations of assigned topics	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	Yes

3	Final report: a 5,000 words critical essay with comparative approach on selected Chinese- language films and fiction	1, 2, 3, 4	45	-	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

In-class discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Active involvement in discussing the related topics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very active participation in discussion.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Active participation in discussion.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Passive participation in discussion.

Marginal

(D) Very passive participation in discussion.

Failure

(F) No participation in discussion.

Assessment Task

Oral and written presentations of assigned topics (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Show command of the knowledge provided in the assigned readings, as well as ability to discover new issues pertaining to the topics of discussion.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- 1.Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
- 2.Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
- 3.Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
- 4.Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- 1.Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
- 2.Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.

3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Fair linguistic competence to describe the arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Fair reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Marginal

(D)

1. Familiarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Failure

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Assessment Task

Final report (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

The students need to demonstrate

- (1) factual information of the topics discussed throughout the course
- (2) their creative and critical opinions of certain issues related to the subject taught in the class.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of the course content.
2. Fair linguistic competence to describe the arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Fair reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Marginal

(D)

1. Familiarity with the subject matter.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Failure

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the subject matter.
 2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
 3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
 4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.
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Assessment Task

In-class discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Active involvement in discussing the related topics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very active participation in discussion.

Good

(B+, B) Active participation in discussion.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Very passive participation in discussion.

Failure

(F) No participation in discussion.

Assessment Task

Oral and written presentations of assigned topics (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Show command of the knowledge provided in the assigned readings, as well as ability to discover new issues pertaining to the topics of discussion.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Familiarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Failure

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the assigned topics and readings.
 2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
 3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
 4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.
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Assessment Task

Final report (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

The students need to demonstrate

- (1) factual information of the topics discussed throughout the course
- (2) their creative and critical opinions of certain issues related to the subject taught in the class.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Familiarity with the subject matter.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Failure

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the subject matter.
 2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
 3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
 4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.
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Part III Other Information

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	夏志清：《中國現代小說史》（新版），劉紹銘等譯，香港：香港中文大學出版社，2015。
2	王德威主編：《哈佛新編中國現代文學史（上下）》，臺北：麥田，2021。
3	李歐梵：《文學改編電影》，香港：三聯書店有限公司，2010。
4	戴錦華：《電影批評》，北京：北京大學出版社，2015。
5	Timothy Corrigan, <i>Film and Literature: An Introduction and Reader</i> , Routledge, 2012.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	王德威：《小說中國：晚清到當代的中國小說》，臺北：麥田，2012。
2	王德威：《可畏的想像力：當代小說31家》，臺北：麥田，2023。
3	戴錦華：《霧中風景：中國電影文化1978-1998》，北京：北京大學出版社，2016。
4	黃錦樹：《馬華文學與中國性》，臺北：麥田，2012。
5	黃美娥：《世界中的台灣文學：台灣史論叢 文學篇》，臺北：國立臺灣大學出版中心，2020。
6	陳智德：《根著我城：戰後至2000年代的香港文學》，台北：聯經，2019
7	Rey Chow, <i>Sentimental Fabulations, Contemporary Chinese Films: Attachment in the Age of Global Visibility</i> , New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.
8	Kristin Thompson, <i>Breaking the Glass Armor: Neoformalist Film Analysis</i> , New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1988.