

CAH4508: EAST ASIAN FILM CULTURES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

East Asian Film Cultures

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

4508

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL4508 East Asian Film Cultures

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to develop students' knowledge of the film cultures and film industries of East Asia; examine cross-cultural issues relating to filmmaking in the context of East Asia; explore the cultural meanings of representative works of East Asian cinema enhance students' cultural literacy in a transnational context

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics and recent developments in East Asian cinemas		x	x	
2	Apply critical concepts and common terminology in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia		x	x	
3	Explain the aesthetic features and meaning of a given film		x	x	
4	Analyze important trends and issues in filmmaking in East Asia			x	x
5	Formulate and articulate arguments effectively in both written and spoken forms through individual and group work			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	Lecture and discussions	Students will i) explore key concepts and issues; and (ii) explain and consolidate background knowledge and conceptual framework	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
2	Weekly reading assignments	Students will be engaged in weekly reading assignments on specific topics followed by class discussions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	Visits to film festivals and exhibitions	Students will visit film festivals and exhibitions, where possible, followed by class discussions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation	2, 3, 4	10	-	No
2	Group Project and Presentation on a research topic relating to the film cultures and/or film industries in East Asia; students will submit a written report and give a formal group presentation at the end of the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	40	-	Yes
3	Individual term paper: students will develop an analytical essay related to this course.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Participation

Criterion

Satisfactory completion of weekly in-class discussion tasks

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Excellent command of knowledge of salient aspects of the film cultures and film industries in East Asia.
- Excellent understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
- Excellent linguistic competence to introduce, explain and assess the meaning and cultural value of major works of East Asian cinema as well as recent trends in the film industries of East Asia.
- Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate an informed understanding of important concepts and terminology and their application in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Good command of knowledge of salient aspects of the film cultures and film industries in East Asia.
- Good understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
- Good linguistic competence to introduce, explain and assess the meaning and cultural value of major works of East Asian cinema as well as recent trends in the film industries of East Asia.
- Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate an informed understanding of important concepts and terminology and their application in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Adequate command of the course content.

- A certain degree of understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
- Fair linguistic competence to describe the meaning and cultural value of major works of East Asian cinemas.
- Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate basic understanding of important concepts and terminology in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Marginal (D)

- Familiarity with the subject matter.
- Marginal command of course materials, with the ability to describe a few important features of the film cultures of East Asia.
- Marginal ability and skills to describe the meaning of major works of East Asian cinema.
- Marginally acceptable oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate basic understanding of important concepts and terminology in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Assessment Task

Group Project and Presentation

Criterion

Team work Subject Knowledge Research content Applied knowledge

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Excellent command of knowledge of salient aspects of the film cultures and film industries in East Asia.
- Excellent understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
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- Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate an informed understanding of important concepts and terminology and their application in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Good command of knowledge of salient aspects of the film cultures and film industries in East Asia.
- Good understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
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- Adequate command of the course content.
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Assessment Task

Individual term paper

Criterion

Evidence of researchSubject KnowledgeAnalytical content

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Excellent command of knowledge of salient aspects of the film cultures and film industries in East Asia.
- Excellent understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
- Excellent linguistic competence to introduce, explain and assess the meaning and cultural value of major works of East Asian cinema as well as recent trends in the film industries of East Asia.
- Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate an informed understanding of important concepts and terminology and their application in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

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- Good understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
- Good linguistic competence to introduce, explain and assess the meaning and cultural value of major works of East Asian cinema as well as recent trends in the film industries of East Asia.
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Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Adequate command of the course content.
- A certain degree of understanding of major works of East Asian cinema and their aesthetic, historical and cultural value.
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- Marginally acceptable oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate basic understanding of important concepts and terminology in the study of film and film cultures in East Asia.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

East Asian cinema and film industries; film genres; auteurs and art-house cinema; co-productions; transnational filmmaking, pan-Asian cinema

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Bordwell, David, Planet Hong Kong: Popular Cinema and the Art of Entertainment, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2000.
2	Careter, David, East Asian Cinema, London: Oldcastle Books, 2007.
3	Cheuk, Pak-tong, The Hong Kong New Wave: 1978-2000, London: Intellect, 2008.
4	Ciecko, Anne Tereska, ed., Contemporary Asian Cinema: Popular Culture in a Global Age, New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
5	Lee, Hyangjin and Julian Stringer, Contemporary Korean Cinema: Culture, Identity and Politics,

6	Lu, H. Sheldon and Emilie Yueh-yu Yeh, eds., Chinese-Language Film: Historiography, Poetics, Politics, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005.
7	Patrick Galloway, Asia Shock: Horror and Dark Cinema from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Thailand, Stonebridge Press, 2006.
8	Philips, Alistair and Julian Stringer, Japanese Cinema: Texts and Contexts, London & New York: Routledge, 2007
9	Standish, Isolde, A New History of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film, London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006.
10	Teo, Stephen, Hong Kong Cinema: the Extra Dimension, London: British Film Institute, 1997.
11	Vick, Tom, Asian Cinema: A Field Guide, Collins: 2008.
12	Zhang, Yingjin, Chinese National Cinema, New York: Routledge, 2004.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil