World Society in Literature and Film

Time: MWF 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm  
Location: Gladfelter Hall 413  
Instructor: Yun Zhu (Anderson Hall 351, in 345)  
  yun.zhu@temple.edu  
  Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:50 pm – 1:50 pm, or by appointment

The primary goal of this course is to help students develop a framework in which to understand aspects of contemporary Chinese society and some of the factors that have contributed to shaping it as portrayed in literature and film.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- Acquire a basic knowledge of the influences (e.g. political, social, historical, cultural, artistic, literary, geographic, economic) on contemporary Chinese society;
- Develop observations about important socio-cultural phenomena;
- Construct interpretations using evidence and critical analysis;
- Communicate and defend interpretations concerning Chinese society and culture.

No knowledge of Chinese is required.

Each student will be expected to give an individual presentation based on the course materials, plus three reflections on Blackboard. Pop-up reading quizzes will be given from time to time to check on the preparation work. Both the midterm and the final exams will be composed of multiple choice questions, short-answer questions, and an essay section drawn from the lectures and required readings/viewings. The recommended readings/films (marked with *) will not be included in any quiz, test, or exam. A 5-7 page paper will be due on Wednesday May 1st, 2013.

Grading & Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (10 minutes)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Blackboard Reflections (200-300 Words x 3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Pop Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper (5-7 Pages, Times New Roman 12, Double-Spaced)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>92.5% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.5-89.99%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82.49%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.5-77.49%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.5-69.99%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62.49%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
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**Disability Statement:**

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should both contact Disability Resources and Services (http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.html) and meet the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible.

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity and should avoid any form of dishonesty, including plagiarism (from books, internet sources, or other people’s works). Please refer to “Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities” at http://policies.temple.edu/PDF/99.pdf for information, and the university statement on plagiarism and cheating can be accessed at http://ww2.cis.temple.edu/cis166/plagiarism.htm. Please note that according to the statement “The penalty for plagiarism or cheating as a first offense is normally an “F” in the course in which the offense is committed and a report to the Dean. A subsequent offense may, in addition, be referred to the university disciplinary committee.”

**Policy on Attendance and Participation:**

Much emphasis will be placed upon class participation, which includes timely attendance and active as well as constructive participation in class.

- **Excused Absences:** The only excused absences are either those for which a student arranged for an absence three days or more in advance in order to observe a religious holiday or those for documented university-authorized absences.

- **Unexcused Absences:** You will be allowed four unexcused absences. If you are sick or have a family emergency or have to attend to some other matter that keeps you from class, that absence will count as one of the four. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be automatically lowered half a grade. For example, a B+ under this policy would be lowered to a B.

- **Tardiness:** Class begins on the hour. If you are not present and seated at the start of class, you will be counted as absent. Please also be informed that most pop-up quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and no makeup quizzes will be given except for prearranged absences to observe a religious holiday.
Make-Up Exams: Normally no makeup tests/exams will be allowed, unless with proper documentation and timely notice.

Preparation for Class:

Students are expected to come to class prepared. For this purpose, it is likely that most students will have to spend 4.5-6 hours a week outside of class studying the required materials and working on the assignments. Please bring the required readings with you (hard copy) to class. The recommended materials are only for those looking for extra information. They are not required and will not be tested on.

Pop Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given at the start of class from time to time without prior notice when there are assigned readings or films. Most quizzes will consist of one or two questions about specific content from the readings or films. Even if you do not know the answer to a day’s quiz questions, turn in a piece of paper with your name on it. Otherwise, you will be marked as absent for the day.

Presentation:

Each student will give a 10 minute presentation based on the materials they have signed up for. The presentations are expected to provide contextual information, provoke critical thoughts, raise questions, and trigger class discussions. You are welcome to talk to the instructor (for suggested readings, etc.) when you prepare for your presentation.

Blackboard Reflections:

Students will be assigned three 200-300 word reflections on the course materials to submit through Blackboard. The deadlines have been highlighted in the schedule. You are highly encouraged to write and post your reflections ahead of the deadlines to help with class discussions. Also, you are welcome to write “reflections upon reflections,” i.e., responses to others’ reflections, but these will not be counted or credited. We will discuss all the postings in class.

Term Paper:

A 5-7 page term paper will be due in class on Wednesday May 1st, 2013. In the process of developing your argument and writing your paper, you are required to meet the instructor at least twice (see the suggested timeline in the schedule) to discuss your paper project, and these two required meetings count for 5% out of the 20% assigned to the term paper project. A written paper proposal and an outline will be due respectively at these meetings. You are welcome to discuss early drafts with the instructor before final submission.
Policy on Late Assignments:
Late assignments (including papers) will be read and commented on, but every day of lateness will be penalized with a deduction of 10% from the points gained for the assignment.

Religious Holidays
If religious holidays prevent you from attending class or fulfilling course requirements on time, your absence will be excused and you may make up the missed work. However, you must inform the instructor within two weeks of the beginning of the semester – or three days before any holiday that fall within the first two weeks of class.

No Use of Electronic Devices Allowed in Class

* This syllabus is a guideline for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Please check your email/Blackboard for updates.

** All the required texts and films have been put on reserve at the library. For the required reading assignments, please **print out and bring the hard copies** with you to class.
Required Textbook:


All the other required readings are on reserve in the library, and you can access them via the library website under “Reserves.”

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### Introduction

Wed. 1/23  Introduction

Fri. 1/25  Required Viewing: *China: A Century of Revolution*, Disc 1  
[On reserve in the library; also available on YouTube]

Mon. 1/28  Required Viewing: *China: A Century of Revolution*, Disc 2  
[On reserve in the library; also available on YouTube]

Wed. 1/30  Required Viewing: *China: A Century of Revolution*, Disc 3  
[On reserve in the library; also available on YouTube]

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### From “Scar Literature” to “Cultural Fever”


Mon. 2/4  Required Reading: Feng Jicai, “The Tall Woman and Her Short Husband,” *The Vintage Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*, pp. 237-248

Wed. 2/6  Required Reading: Wang Meng, “Eyes of the Night,” *A Place of One’s Own: Stories of Self in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore*, pp. 113-125

Fri. 2/8  “Scar Literature”: continued discussion  
* Recommended viewing: *Legend of Tianyun Mountain* (1980, dir. Xie Jin)
Mon. 2/11  Required Reading: Mo Yan, “Autumn Waters,” *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, pp. 429-443

Wed. 2/13  Background information on the “Fifth Generation” Chinese cinema

**First Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**


Mon. 2/18  “Root-seeking”: continued discussion

* Recommended viewing: *Yellow Earth* (1984, dir. Chen Kaige)


Mon. 2/25  “Brothers” and *Woman, Demon, Human*: continued discussion

Wed. 2/27  Required Reading: Gao Xingjian, “The Other Shore,” *The Other Shore*, 1-44

Fri. 3/1  “The Other Shore”: continued discussion

**“China Pop”: Consumerism, Cynicism, and Criticism**

Mon. 3/4  Background information on *The Troubleshooters*


**Second Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**

Fri. 3/8  Midterm Exam
Sun. 3/10 – Sun. 3/17 Happy Spring Recess!

Mon. 3/18    Required Reading: Zhu Wen, “I Love Dollars,” *I Love Dollars and Other Stories of China*, pp. 1-44

Wed. 3/20    Required Viewing: *Ermo* (1994, dir. Zhou Xiaowen) [also available on Netflix]


* Recommended reading: Chun Sue, *Beijing Doll*


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**Embracing Development: Three Films by Jia Zhangke**

Wed. 3/27    Background for Jia Zhangke and his films


    **Third Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**


Fri. 4/5    Jia Zhangke: continued discussion

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**(Re/De)Construction of the Socialist Past**

Mon. 4/8    Required Reading: Yan Lianke, *Serve the People*, pp.1-50
Wed. 4/10  Required Reading: Yan Lianke, *Serve the People* (continued), pp. 51-94

*By 12 noon this day, you should have discussed your term paper proposal (in hard copy) with Prof. Zhu*

Fri. 4/12  Required Reading: Yan Lianke, *Serve the People* (continued), pp. 95-144

Mon. 4/15  Required Reading: Yan Lianke, *Serve the People* (continued), pp. 145-217

Wed. 4/17  Background for *The Piano in a Factory*


*By 12 noon this day, you should have discussed your term paper proposal (in hard copy) with Prof. Zhu*

Mon. 4/22  *Serve the People* and *The Piano in a Factory*: continued discussion

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### The Chinese Dream

**Wed. 4/24**  The Story of Du Lala: From Novel to Film


**Fri. 4/26**  The Story of Happy: From Novel to Film


**Mon. 4/29**  In-Class Viewing and Discussion: *China Revealed* (2006, dir. Cassian Harrison)

**Wed. 5/1**  In-Class Viewing and Discussion: *China Revealed* (continued)

**Term Paper Due in Class**
Fri. 5/3 In-Class Viewing and Discussion: *China Revealed* (continued)

Mon. 5/6 Wrap-up

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**Final Exam: Friday 5/10, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**