HUMN 4390/ASIA 3350 – Asian Film and Culture

Instructor: Pamela Herron
Semester: Fall 2015
Day & Time: MW 4:30 – 5:50 p.m.
Aug. – Dec. 2015
CRN: HUMN 4390 - 15576/ASIA 3350 - 18069
Classroom: MINERS HALL 301
Credits: 3
Office: Hudspeth 209
Office Hrs: By appointment.
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E-Mail: pgstover@utep.edu Please note that contact by UTEP email is the best way to reach me.

Excellent supplemental texts (not required) include Asian Cinemas: A Reader and Guide
by Eleftheriotis & Needham and World on Film by Nochimson
Additional texts and/or articles may be required reading. Assigned films/clips shown in
class are considered part of required material.

Purpose: This survey of films made in and about Asia specifically examines Asian culture through a multidisciplinary
approach. The course also examines cultural similarities and unique elements in Asia; roles of women,
gender issues and gender portrayal in films. This course examines how society and culture are presented in
various films from Asia including India, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, China, etc. Students are encouraged
to examine history, current events, literature, art, folk customs and festivals, philosophy, and gender issues
as related to the films. The interrelationships of these and other aspects will be considered with specific
attention to their influence on society and culture of their times. Students will also examine the interrelated
influences of Asian film within Asian culture and upon the world both past and present. Course is designed
so that the student understands and appreciates Asian culture and gender issues through assigned films,
critical analysis, discussion and research.

Procedure: The course will focus on the assigned Asian films viewed in class and readings from the assigned
textbook. There may include other assigned articles. The films and texts will serve as the springboard for
individual, small group, and whole class discussion and analysis which may be in class or electronically
through Blackboard or wikis. Students are also expected to read and analyze current events and other
resources to enhance understanding. Students will view and analyze films along with assigned text readings
and required material using critical analysis methods. Students will further analyze all material through class
and group discussion. Students are expected to perform independent research. Active participation in class
discussions and assignments is an integral part of the course. Please attend class to view all films and
read all assignments thoroughly and carefully, so that others can learn from your interpretations analysis
and you can learn from the interpretations of others through class discourse. Active participation in all class
discussions and assignments is an integral part of the course.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

With full participation, after completing this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate basic familiarity with aspects of Asian culture and films.
- Appreciate the differences and similarities to other cultures.
- Analyze the positive and negative aspects of depiction of gender issues based on analysis of films from
  various Asian countries. Identify and understand of cultural issues in films based on social class, gender,
race, and sexual orientation.
- Evaluate and compare aspects from the assigned films and texts.
- Better understand Asian cultures and people from those cultures in a way that is respectful and promotes
  mutual understanding.

With full participation, after completing this course, students will have improved their skills in:

- Reading – Students will become critical and careful readers of both primary and secondary source material
  and learn to synthesize what they are reading by responding to it in writing and in class discussion. Liberal
  Arts Honors Criteria #2 Advanced Readings
• **Writing** – Students will write reflective responses, both in class and online, and will learn to develop and support an argument through their writing and incorporate the arguments and thoughts of others. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #3 Intensive Writing and #4 Intensive Research*

• **Critical thinking** – Students will be asked to critically evaluate texts and assigned films, the perspectives articulated in those texts, and the assumptions underlying the arguments being made. Students should become comfortable with differences of opinion and confident in expressing their own point of view. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #9 Critical Thinking*

• **Campus and community engagement** – Students will be encouraged to participate in campus and community events related to the subject being studied. Students will be encouraged to participate in appropriate related events and/or student organizations. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #6 Campus Resources and #7 Community Based Experiences*

• **Lifelong learning** – Students should feel motivated and confident in seeking out new and unfamiliar cultural experiences with the goal of learning more about themselves and their world.

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 450-500 points
- B = 374-449 points
- C = 273-373 points
- D = 172-272 points
- F = 171 points and below

**Assignments:**

- Interactive Blackboard discussions are required for each of the 14 films. You are expected to follow the assigned guidelines and post in a timely manner following e-etiquette. Due to the time required to view films there is limited time for in-class discussion so full Blackboard participation is essential. (14 discussions of approx. 900-1000 words each at 25 pts. each for total of 350 pts.) *Discussions are critical analysis of various aspects of the films and are not a summary of the film!* Use your critical thinking to explore a concept or idea and expand. Topics may be provided on some films, while others will require students to post their own threads. If you are not proficient using Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn how using tutorials or the IT help staff since BB participation is a mandatory aspect of this course.

- **Student group/wiki projects.** (50 points)

- Research, Paper and Final Presentation. Students will individually research, analyze and present a topic on Asian film and gender issues, choice approved by instructor. Students must sign up for their topic by mid-semester. (100 pts.)

**Attendance and Participation:** *Active attendance and participation is essential. Lack of participation in class discussion or failure to read/analyze the assigned texts will result in a reduction of points from your papers.* Cell phones, computers and all electronic devices will be turned off at the beginning of class. This includes no text messaging. If you must eat in class, please limit your food to a small, quietly consumed snack. Because learning rarely happens in isolation, but from a sharing of ideas and experiences, *attendance at every class is mandatory.* Since emergencies do arise, two absences will be allowed without penalty; after two absences, you will lose 10 points for each class you miss, regardless of the reason. Students who miss a portion of the class will lose a commensurate number of points. These points will be deducted from the total accumulation of points you have earned by the end of the semester. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact a CLASSMATE, not the instructor, to get information on what was covered that day and copies of any papers that were passed out. It is assumed that since you signed up for this time slot, you are able to make the class in a timely manner. If you come to class late, points will be deducted from your assigned paper. Make-up papers will be allowed only with a documented excuse (i.e. medical emergency or military duty). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class; those students entering class after roll call are counted tardy; each tardy counts as half an absence. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the end of class if you are tardy. Do not assume that I have noted your appearance after roll call is taken. *You do not need to contact me if you are going to be absent.* Students missing more than 20% of classes (6 classes) will be dropped.

**Plagiarism and theft of intellectual property:** If you use work from someone else and submit it as your own; if you use work from another source in your assignments and do not give direct credit to your source; or if someone with whom you are working writes/creates any part of the work for you, you are plagiarizing. Acts of plagiarism are acts of theft, and will be dealt with swiftly according to UTEP’s established policy.

**Assignments:** All out-of-class assignments MUST be typed, double-spaced. 12 pt. font (10 pt. Arial), unless otherwise stated. Do not email assignments unless requested by the instructor. Save a copy of your assignments before you hand them in, as well as keep returned assignments until the end of the semester so you can keep abreast of your grade. Please ensure that you understand the requirements for the assignments before you begin, and give yourself ample time to complete them so that you can turn in your best work. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; those turned in to me after class will be counted as late. If you know you are going to be absent,
give it to a classmate to turn in or turn it in early. *Please note: Assignments that do not follow the given directions will not be given a passing grade. There are no “redo’s.”* Late assignments lose 5 points a day. There are no make-ups for missed Blackboard discussions.

**Technology:** Please note this is course uses Blackboard and related tools extensively. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the appropriate tools. IT Help in the UTEP Library is a great resource. You are expected to participate fully in both assigned papers and online assignments and discussions. Problems with connections should be anticipated and are not an excuse for missing an assignment. Please look over the separate **Blackboard Guidelines** to ensure that you understand the course expectations and requirements.

**PLEASE REALIZE AT ALL TIMES THAT YOU ARE PREPARING TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. IN THIS CLASS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO LEARN, BEHAVE, AND DRESS IN THE COURTEOUS, CONSCIENTIOUS, AND GENERALLY BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER CALLED FOR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.**

**Extra Help:** Students may see me by appointment. Help is also available at the UTEP Library Tutoring and Learning Center, Room 30, 747-5366.
HUMN 4390/WS 3383/FILM 4340 – Women in Asian Culture and Film

SYLLABUS CALENDAR

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion to meet instructional needs and/or to accommodate time constraints. Bring this syllabus and your assigned texts to class daily. Remember: readings and the films are a springboard for your ideas and exploration. Feel free to explore other resources to better understand a topic or issue. Films are organized geographically by country but may be changed or rearranged at my discretion. You are expected to attend all classes to view the films with your classmates and you are expected to read and consider all text assignments. Blackboard participation is required for each film assigned.

Assignments: The assignments/discussions organized weekly. Please follow the guidelines and deadlines for posting in the Blackboard discussion threads.

Wk 1  Introduction to class, textbook and review of syllabus and policies. A look at Asia geographically and culturally and a primer on language and vocabulary of cinema. By next week read the pdf from World Cinema, the material on cinema language and Introduction vii-xiv and Part IV: New Players pgs. 219-242.
Film #1 USA Baraka (original title) 1992, Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson, 96 min.

Wk 2  Film #2 Vietnam Scent of Green Papayas "Mùi du du xanh" (original title) 1993, 104 min.

Wk 3  Film #3 American film shot in Vietnam, “Three Seasons” (original title) 1999, Tony Bui, 104 min. Feb. 14 Sept. 18 Last day to select P/F option.

Wk 4  Film #4 India Rang de Basanti “Paint it Yellow” (English title) 2008, Rakesh Omprakash Mehra, 157 min. Read: Part I India Section pgs. 87-112

Wk 5  Film #5 India Dabba (original title) “The Lunchbox” 2013, Ritesh Batra, 109 min.

Wk 6  Film #7 Chunhyang “Chunhyangdyun” (original title) 2000, Kwon-taek Im. 120 min.

Wk 7  Film #6 Korea Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter . . . Spring “Bom yeoreum gaeul gyeoul geurigo bom” (original title) 2003, Kim Ki-duk, 103 min. Read: Part II Korea Section pgs. 143-172.

Wk 8  Film #7 Japan TBA

Oct 30 Course Drop Deadline

Wk 9  Film #8 Japan Departures “Okuribito” (original title) 2008, Takita Yôjirô, 130 min. Read: Part I Japan Section pgs. 37-86

Wk 10 Film #9 Japan Grave of the Fireflies “Hotaru no haka” (original title) 1988 Takahata Isao, 89 min.

Wk 11 Film #10 TBA

Wk 12 Film #11 China To Live “Hou Zhe” (original title) 1994, Zhang Yimou, 125 min. Read: Part I China Section pgs. 2-36, Part II Hong Kong Section pgs. 113-142 and Part III Taiwan pgs. 195-218

Wk 13 Film #12 China The Story of Qiu Ju “Qiu Ju da guan si” (original title) 1992, Zhang Yimou, 100 min.

Wk 14 Film #13 China King of Masks “Bian Lian” (original title) 1999, Wu Tian-Ming, 91 min.

Wk 15 Film #14 China TBA

*Wed - Dec 2 This is our last class meeting. Final project/paper counts as the final. There will be no final exam during exam week.