

HIST 163: ASIAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Mon, 05 Jun 2023 14:27:24 GMT
Mark McNicholas (mpm17): Approved for mpm17
2. Mon, 27 Nov 2023 13:53:01 GMT
Peter L Moran (plm150): Rollback to Consultation for AL Administrator - Undergrad

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Fri, 02 Jun 2023 22:40:07 GMT

Viewing: HIST 163 : Asian History Through Film

Last edit: Mon, 27 Nov 2023 14:12:30 GMT

Changes proposed by: Mark McNicholas (mpm17)

Academic Level

Undergraduate

Proposal Summary

This course uses films and accompanying readings to explore the histories of selected Asian countries. Students will watch and analyze Asian films from the 1920s to the present for the light they cast on numerous problems of modern life and historical interpretation: How have Asians depicted their own histories? How have they dealt with war, revolution, and social and cultural change? What have been the effects of major historical events and transitions on individuals, families, societies, and states? Students will gain a visual introduction to Asian cultures and societies, explore their histories, and learn to read films as both interpretations and products of history. (Note: The proposer's focus is East Asia, but the Public Course Description uses the more general "Asia" to allow for variation by instructor.)

Principal Faculty Member

Last Name, User ID	Email (Autofill)
McNicholas, Mark (mpm17)	mpm17@psu.edu

Were any other faculty members responsible for the development of the course?

Yes

Development Faculty Member(s)

Last Name, User ID	Email (Autofill)
Moran, Peter L (plm150)	plm150@psu.edu

Proposer's Home College

Altoona College

Proposer's Home Unit

Division of Arts and Humanities

College

Altoona College

Unit

Division of Arts and Humanities (ALAL_ALAH)

Is this proposal for a common course, such as 97, 98, 99, 187, 197, 198, 199, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 395, 397, 398, 399, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 590, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 610, 611, 890, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899.

No

Course Abbreviation

HIST - History

Course Number

163

Course Title

Asian History Through Film

Abbreviated Title

Asian History Through Film

Min Credits

3

Max Credits

3

Repeatable

No

Does This Course Have an Overnight Travel Component?

No

Public Course Description for Bulletin & Schedule of Courses

This course explores Asian histories through film. We will watch and analyze Asian films for the light they cast on numerous problems of modern life and historical interpretation in selected Asian countries: How have Asians depicted their own histories? How have they dealt with war, revolution, and social and cultural change? What have been the effects of major historical events and transitions on individuals, families, societies, and states? Approaching film as documentation, interpretation, commentary, propaganda, nostalgia, vision for the future, and reflection of social norms and problems, we will also consider films as products of specific historical environments: why did certain movies appear when they did? Through this course, students will gain a visual introduction to Asian cultures and societies, explore their histories, and learn to read films as both interpretations and products of history.

Course Learning Objectives

CLOs	
1	Recognize major events and themes in selected Asian histories.
2	Identify a film's main themes and messages.
3	Describe how a film conveys its messages.
4	Relate a film to larger historical contexts (its historical subject matter and the context in which the film itself was produced).
5	Distinguish between historical events and their interpretation.
6	Analyze a film's position with regard to the historical events or phenomena it addresses.

How will the Course Learning Objectives be assessed?

Assessment and grading methods will vary by instructor and with enrollment, but a typical scheme might be:

Participation (20%)

Written film analyses (40%)

In-class "Discussion launch" presentation (10%)

Analytical essay (20%)

Peer review of draft essay (10%)

A listing of the major topics to be covered with an approximate length of time allotted for their discussion

Countries and specific topics will vary by instructor, but a list might be as follows:

Week 1: Introductions: Asian history; "Reading" films (3 hours)

Part One: China

Week 2: Dreams and Realities in Republican China (3 hours)

Week 3: Imperialism and Revolution (3 hours)

Week 4: Tradition, Modernity, and Nostalgia (3 hours)

Week 5: Justice in Post-Mao China (3 hours)

Week 6: Culture and Careers in Post-Mao China (3 hours)

Week 7: The First Emperor: For and Against (3 hours)

Part Two: Japan

Week 8: Warriors in a Civil Age (3 hours)

Week 9: Family Life in the Industrial Age (3 hours)

Week 10: Traditional Artists in a Changing World (3 hours)

Week 11: Empire and Defeat: Handling the War (3 hours)

Week 12: Monstrosity: Japan in the Nuclear Age (3 hours)

Part Three: Korea

Week 13: North Korea: Anti-imperialism and Class Struggle (3 hours)

Week 14: South Korea: Authoritarian Rule (3 hours)

Week 15: South Korea: Transition to Democracy (3 hours)

Who is the anticipated student audience for this course?

The target audiences are undergraduate history majors and minors and other students interested in history, film, Asian studies, or foreign cultures in general.

Course Attributes**Honors***

No

Bachelor of Arts

Yes

Bachelor of Arts Designations: Check all categories that apply and provide additional information below

Bachelor of Arts: Humanities

Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures

Justification: Humanities

This course falls under the Knowledge Domain of General Education: Humanities (GH), and matches four of the Humanities Student Learning Criteria. More generally, it broadens student horizons and knowledge of the world by exploring social and cultural change in non-western histories, and further helps students develop competency in interpreting and critically evaluating an unfamiliar form of cultural and artistic expression (Asian film).

Justification: Other Cultures

This course is entirely focused on Asian, non-western history and culture.

United States Cultures (US)

No

International Cultures (IL)

Yes

International Cultures: Include a complete course outline including a statement of course objectives that reflect the IL content, and a listing of major topics with an approximate length of time for their discussion. Copy and paste the response from the Listing of Major Topics above and bold the elements that are relevant to International Cultures.

As this course is devoted to studying Asian history through the medium of Asian film, all content relates directly to International Cultures.

I. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Recognize major events and themes in selected Asian histories.

Identify a film's main themes and messages.

Describe how a film conveys its messages.

Relate a film to larger historical contexts (its historical subject matter and the context in which the film itself was produced).

Distinguish between historical events and their interpretation.

Analyze a film's position with regard to the historical events or phenomena it addresses.

II. MAJOR TOPICS:

Week 1: Introductions: Asian history; "Reading" films (3 hours)

Part One: China

Week 2: Dreams and Realities in Republican China (3 hours)

Week 3: Imperialism and Revolution (3 hours)

Week 4: Tradition, Modernity, and Nostalgia (3 hours)

Week 5: Justice in Post-Mao China (3 hours)

Week 6: Culture and Careers in Post-Mao China (3 hours)

Week 7: The First Emperor: For and Against (3 hours)

Part Two: Japan

Week 8: Warriors in a Civil Age (3 hours)

Week 9: Family Life in the Industrial Age (3 hours)

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Part Three: Korea

Week 13: North Korea: Anti-imperialism and Class Struggle (3 hours)

Week 14: South Korea: Authoritarian Rule (3 hours)

Week 15: South Korea: Transition to Democracy (3 hours)

International Cultures: Include pertinent information on the IL aspects of the course in the long course description. Copy and paste the response from the Public Course Description for Bulletin & Schedule of Courses above and bold the elements that are relevant to International Cultures.

This course explores Asian histories through film. We will watch and analyze Asian films from the 1920s to the present for the light they cast on numerous problems of modern life and historical interpretation in selected Asian countries (e.g., China, Japan and Korea): How have Asians depicted their own histories? How have they dealt with war, revolution, and social and cultural change? What have been the effects of major historical events and transitions on individuals, families, societies, and states? Approaching film as documentation, interpretation, commentary, propaganda, nostalgia, vision for the future, and reflection of social norms and problems, we will also consider films as products of specific historical environments: why did certain movies appear when they did? Through this course, students will gain a visual introduction to Asian cultures and societies, explore their histories, and learn to read films as both interpretations and products of history.

Describe how the course encourages students to develop understanding of the historical backgrounds, cultural and scientific contributions, economic, social, psychological, and political circumstances of the group being studied. While no one course or section is expected to achieve every criterion, each course proposal must clearly specify which criteria it proposes to meet. Thus the proposal should explain how students, within the context of the course, will be encouraged to do or achieve three or more of the following:

See nations, cultures, and/or social identities not in isolation, but in relation to each other

Increase knowledge of different cultural values, traditions, beliefs and customs

Increase knowledge about the range of cultural achievements and human conditions through time

See nations, cultures, and/or social identities not in isolation, but in relation to each other

The class will study films from multiple Asian countries (e.g., China, Japan, and Korea). The histories of these countries are intertwined, and students will be encouraged to identify commonalities and variations in their historical experiences and cultural products.

How will student learning of the above be assessed?

Written film analyses, an analytical essay, and an in-class presentation.

Increase knowledge of different cultural values, traditions, beliefs and customs

All of the films are Asian-made and many engage with tensions and contradictions between traditional values and new, often external forces.

How will student learning of the above be assessed?

Written film analyses, an analytical essay, and an in-class presentation.

Increase knowledge about the range of cultural achievements and human conditions through time

This course will increase knowledge on both fronts. The films explore historical events and show changing conditions over time, consciously (as creative works), unconsciously (as historical artifacts themselves), and visually (as cinematic works that display physical environments, material culture, and forms of speech and personal interaction)—all in non-western settings.

How will student learning of the above be assessed?

Written film analyses, an analytical essay, and an in-class presentation.

Writing Across the Curriculum*

No

First-Year Seminar*

No

General Education

Yes

Alignment with General Education Objectives (Select at least 2, but no more than 4)

KEY LITERACIES – the ability to identify, interpret, create, communicate and compute using materials in a variety of media and contexts. Literacy acquired in multiple areas, such as textual, quantitative, information/technology, health, intercultural, historical, aesthetic, linguistic (world languages), and scientific, enables individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, to lead healthy and productive lives, and to participate fully in their community and wider society.

GLOBAL LEARNING – the intellectually disciplined abilities to analyze similarities and differences among cultures; evaluate natural, physical, social, cultural, historical, and economic legacies and hierarchies; and engage as community members and leaders who will continue to deal with the intricacies of an ever-changing world. Individuals should acquire the ability to analyze power; identify and critique interdependent global, regional, and local cultures and systems; and evaluate the implications for people's lives.

KEY LITERACIES: What component(s) of the course will help students achieve the General Education Learning Objectives covered in the course? Provide evidence that students in the course have adequate opportunities to achieve the identified learning objectives

This course will enable students to develop textual (both written and cinematic), historical, and intercultural literacies. Through weekly viewing and analysis of Asian films in tandem with accompanying readings, students will gain rich exposure to non-western cultures and have regular practice in identifying themes and arguments, interpreting historical depictions, and communicating their conclusions orally and in writing.

KEY LITERACIES: How will students be assessed to determine their attainment of the Learning Objective(s) of General Education covered in this course? This assessment must be included as a portion of the student's overall performance in this course

Written film analyses, an analytical essay, and an in-class presentation.

GLOBAL LEARNING: What component(s) of the course will help students achieve the General Education Learning Objectives covered in the course? Provide evidence that students in the course have adequate opportunities to achieve the identified learning objectives

This course will enhance global learning. Through weekly viewing and analysis of Asian films, in tandem with accompanying readings, students will have regular practice in evaluating historical legacies and hierarchies within selected Asian countries and in comparing similarities and differences among cultures.

GLOBAL LEARNING: How will students be assessed to determine their attainment of the Learning Objective(s) of General Education covered in this course? This assessment must be included as a portion of the student's overall performance in this course

Written film analyses, an analytical essay, and an in-class presentation.

General Education Designations

Single Domain

Knowledge Domains

General Education: Humanities (GH)

Humanities Student Learning Criteria (GH) – Select at least 3 criteria below and describe the components of the course that will help students achieve those criteria.

Demonstrate competence in critical thinking about topics and texts in the humanities through clear and well-reasoned responses
Critically evaluate texts in the humanities— whether verbal, visual, or digital— and identify and explain moral or ethical dimensions within the disciplines of the humanities

Demonstrate knowledge of major cultural currents, issues, and developments through time, including evidence of exposure to unfamiliar material that challenges their curiosity and stretches their intellectual range

Become familiar with groups, individuals, ideas, or events that have influenced the experiences and values of different communities

Demonstrate competence in critical thinking about topics and texts in the humanities through clear and well-reasoned responses

Short weekly assignments will require preliminary analysis and historical contextualization of the films as they relate to thematic topics, and an analytical essay assignment will require students to advance clear interpretive arguments supported by evidence from film content.

Critically evaluate texts in the humanities– whether verbal, visual, or digital– and identify and explain moral or ethical dimensions within the disciplines of the humanities

This course involves regular critical evaluation of history-related visual texts (films), read in tandem with associated primary and secondary sources. Many of these materials introduce and grapple with moral or ethical dilemmas associated with the transition to modern life and nationhood.

Demonstrate knowledge of major cultural currents, issues, and developments through time, including evidence of exposure to unfamiliar material that challenges their curiosity and stretches their intellectual range

This course focuses on Asian films that directly engage with or reflect cultural issues and historical developments in Asia, and through the films and accompanying readings students will become familiar with these issues and developments. Both the films and the readings will be unfamiliar to most American students. From exposure to analysis, the course materials will draw students into new cultural territories and challenge them to make sense of the content.

Become familiar with groups, individuals, ideas, or events that have influenced the experiences and values of different communities

Many of the films presented in this course are classics that engaged major historical developments or cultural quandaries, reflect the troubled transition to modernity, and resonated with Asian audiences. Most also depict the impacts of larger events and ideas on everyday lives in their respective societies. Weekly lectures and readings will introduce the basic historical and ideological backgrounds, and through the films students will see these influences playing out in society at large.

Notes for Reviewers

In addition to BA and GenEd requirements, this course will meet History major and minor requirements, including the “non-Western” history component.

Supporting Documents

HIST 163 Syllabus.pdf

Consultation

Disciplinary Consultation

Disciplines

Asian Studies (ASIA)

History (HIS)

Reviewer Comments

Peter L Moran (plm150) (Mon, 27 Nov 2023 13:53:01 GMT): Rollback: Add consultation

Peter L Moran (plm150) (Mon, 27 Nov 2023 14:22:27 GMT): Posted to Altoona Senate site on 11/27/2023

Key: 68946