

20th Century Asian History Through Film

Section 1

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This course is an exploration of 20th century Asian history through the analysis of a wide variety of films which portray the history of the time period and place. Film is an exciting medium to approach the study of history. In the course, we will engage with debate on how historical films portray the past, whether they can or should strive for historical accuracy, and to what degree they present opinions or interpretations of the past. Each week will include the viewing of one or more films. Students will write a film review essay, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Section 2

At the end of the course, students will be able to :reference a wide range of historical films; have developed a broader general knowledge of 20th century Asian history; be able to produce an analytical film review essay which places films in a historical context and engage with debate on film representation.

Section 3

Textbook: Rosenstone, *History on Film/Film on History* (Routledge, 3rd ed.)

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course—no readings

Lecture 2: View "The Last Emperor"— Rosenstone Chapter 1

Lecture 3: View "The Last Emperor", discussion—Finish Rosenstone Chapter 1

Lecture 4: View "The Last Emperor;" discussion—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 2

Lecture 5: View "Gandhi"--Finish Rosenstone Chapter 2

Lecture 6: View "Gandhi"—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 3

Lecture 7: View "Gandhi," discussion—Finish Rosenstone Chapter 3

Lecture 8: View "Letters from Iwo Jima"—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 7

Lecture 9: View "Letters from Iwo Jima"—Rosenstone Chapter 7

Lecture 10: View "Letters from Iwo Jima"; discussion—Catch up on readings

Lecture 11: View "Heaven and Earth"—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 5

Lecture 12: View "Heaven and Earth"; discussion—Rosenstone Chapter 5

Lecture 13: Review Session, possible catch-up on films—Preparation for Review Session

Lecture 14: Midterm Exam— Prepare for Midterm Exam

Lecture 15: Introduction to the Review Essay; View "White Light, Black Rain"—Review Rosenstone Chapter 5

Lecture 16: View "White Light, Black Rain," discussion—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 6

Lecture 17: View "Grave of the Fireflies"—Rosenstone Chapter 6

Lecture 18: View "Grave of the Fireflies;" discussion— Review Essay Written Proposal Due

Lecture 19: View Film (TBD)—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 4

Lecture 20: View Film (TBD); discussion—Rosenstone Chapter 4

Lecture 21: Workshop on Review Essay—Prepare for Oral Report on Review Essay Progress

Lecture 22: View "Picture Bride"—Work on Review Essay; Catch up on Readings

Lecture 23: View "Picture Bride;" Discussion—First Draft of Review Essay Due
(Optional Submission of First Draft for Feedback)

Lecture 24: Workshop on Review Essay—Prepare to Discuss Historical Content of One Film

Lecture 25: View Film (TBD)— Begin Rosentone Chapter 8

Lecture 26: View Film (TBD)— Finish Rosenstone Chapter 8

Lecture 27: View "Tokyo Sonata"—Begin Rosenstone Chapter 9

Lecture 28: View "Tokyo Sonata"; Discussion— Finish Rosenstone Chapter 9; Final Draft Due

Lecture 29: Final Exam Identification Item Review Session—Prepare Identification Items

Lecture 30: Review Session— Prepare Essay Items for Review Session

Section 4

Final Exam: 30%; Quizzes or Midterm Exam: 20%; Writing Assignments: 30%; Class Participation: 20%—Quizzes are 5% and the Midterm Exam is 15%.

Section 5

The midterm and final exam require students to synthesize what they learned through the viewing of films, class readings, and lectures and discussions. The exams are a mixture of identification items and essay responses. The review essay requires students to view 2-3 films about a particular region, event, group of people, or important theme relevant to 20th century Asian history. After viewing the films, students will do some individual research on the history of that topic and then write a 1500-2000 word review essay in which they analyze and contextualize the films utilizing the techniques of critique learned in this course. The primary readings will come from the Rosenstone text. Additional readings will be distributed to students via handouts or blackboard.