

Urban Culture Asia

Asian Popular Culture (On-line/in Japan)

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course seeks ways to explicate variable, contested, and multi-layered features of urban cultures in Asian societies. The question of urban Asia, or "Asian modernity" acquires new significance at the current moment, as the impact of globalization and advancement of digital technology have created a thriving East Asian cultural market and active exchanges of pan-Asian popular cultures among different Asian locations. Looking into various forms of urban culture in contemporary Asian societies, students will be engaged in critical discussions about how people experience patterns of national and cultural expressions that are not readily reduced to fixed, static, narrative descriptions.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

After their successful completion of this course, students will be well-equipped to pursue advanced studies in cultural studies and will appreciate how different versions of cultural productions themselves are very much part of greater social discourses.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

- More detailed schedule/plans to be provided later
- Some of the contents and the plans are subject to change

Week 1 Intro/The Lure of the Modern: the modern Shanghai and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Class 1: **(Zoom)** Introduction: Explain syllabus, plans for the semester, etc.

Class 2: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Ang Lee (dir.) *Lust, Caution* (色,戒) (2007)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 2 The Lure of the Modern: the modern Shanghai and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Class 3: **(Zoom)** Looking into "Old Shanghai," Ang Lee, *Lust, Caution*

Class 4: (Asynchronous-Work)

- * Read Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution* (the original short story)
- * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 3 The modern Shanghai (Wrap-up)/The Lure of the Modern: the modern Seoul and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Class 5: **(Zoom)** Ang Lee, *Lust, Caution* & Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution* (Wrap-up)

Class 6: (Asynchronous-Work)

- * Watch Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)
- * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard
- * Read Hong Kal, "Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness" (reference)

Week 4 The Lure of the Modern: the modern Seoul and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Class 7: **(Zoom)** Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008), Photos, video-clips of colonial Seoul to be shown

Class 8: (Asynchronous-Work)

- * Watch Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)
- * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 5 The modern Seoul (Wrap-up)/Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New

Class 9: **(Zoom)** Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008) (Wrap-up)

Class 10: (Asynchronous-Work)

- * Watch Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006)
- * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 6 Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New (*Host*)

Class 11: **(Zoom)** Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006)

Class 12: (Asynchronous-Work)

- * Watch Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006)
- * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 7 *Host* (Wrap-up)/Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New (*Old Boy*)

Class 13: **(Zoom)** Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006) (Wrap-up)

Class 14: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 8 Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New

Class 15: (**Zoom**) Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003)

Class 16: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 9 *Old Boy* (Wrap-up)/*Tokyo!*

Class 17: (**Zoom**) Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003) (Wrap-up)

Class 18: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 10 *Tokyo!*

Class 19: (**Zoom**) *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

Class 20: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 11 *Tokyo!* (Wrap-up)/Food and the Asian Urban

Class 21: (**Zoom**) *Tokyo!* (Wrap-up)

Class 22: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 12 Food and the Asian Urban

Class 23: (**Zoom**) Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014)

Class 24: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 13 Food and the Asian Urban (Wrap-up)/What comes after the APOCALYPSE (???)

Class 25: **(Zoom)** Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014)
(Wrap-up)

Class 26: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* 설국열차(2013)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 14 What comes after the APOCALYPSE (???)

Class 27: **(Zoom)** Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* 설국열차(2013)

Class 28: (Asynchronous-Work)

* Watch Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* 설국열차(2013)

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Week 15 What comes after the APOCALYPSE (???) (Wrap-up)/Final

Class 29: **(Zoom)** Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* 설국열차(2013) + Q&A+Final Exam Prep

Class 30: (Asynchronous-Work)

*Final exam prep

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All readings, supplementary documents, and links to the films will be available on Blackboard under “**Course Materials.**”

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

- 1) **Participation (Short-response postings, Zoom Attendance, etc.): 40%**
- 2) **Midterm Paper: 30% (You are required to submit ONE essay by uploading the file on Blackboard). Details, instructions to be provided during our Live Zoom Session). Paper due: TBA (to be uploaded on Blackboard under “Assignment” menu)**
- 3) **Final Exam: 30% (Take-home exam to be submitted by uploading the exam paper file on Blackboard during the designated Final Exam week, Details TBA)**

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Link to our Live Zoom Session, Password, etc. TBA

NOTE:

1. **Asynchronous-Work:** Before our weekly Zoom Live Sessions you are required to read and/or watch assigned readings/films and **post short responses on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard** (*See “Asynchronous-Work” slots in the “Course Schedule”). I will be gathering your Blackboard postings prior to our live Zoom sessions and respond to them when we meet online.
2. **Posting Short Responses on Blackboard:** After finishing your assigned readings and films (as per “Asynchronous-Work” indicated in our schedule every week), please post your comments and/or questions about the readings/films. These are informal response-postings aimed to show how actively you have been involved in the readings and films and also for me to address your concerns during our live Zoom sessions. This is a **FREE WRITING WITH NO FORMAT (NO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM WORD COUNT REQUIRED. JUST USE YOUR COMMON SENSE)**. You are free to write either/or short responses, confusions, questions that arose while you were doing the class readings (or after watching the films). You can also post **MULTIPLE** responses on a **SINGLE** text or film—just make sure that you post your responses within **the assigned schedule** indicated in the “Asynchronous-Work” slot and on Blackboard. Over-due response postings will be discarded.