

ASP Urban Culture Asia

Asian Popular Culture

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】

(NOTE: More detailed syllabus to be distributed on the first day of class)

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

Class 1: Introduction: Explain syllabus, plans for the semester, etc.

Class 2: Watch Ang Lee (dir.) *Lust, Caution* (色, 戒) (2007) via link provided on Blackboard

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

Class 3: Ang Lee, *Lust, Caution*, Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*

Class 4: Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*

Week 3 The Lure of the Modern: the modern Seoul and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Class 5: Hong Kal, "Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness" (photographs, ads, etc. to be shown in-class)

Class 6: Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008) **[Film screened in-class]**

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

Class 7: Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)

Class 8: Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)

Week 5 Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New

Class 9: Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006) [Film Screened in-class]

Class 10: Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (괴물) (2006)

Week 6 Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New

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

Class 12: Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003) [Film Screened in-class]

Week 7 Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New

Class 13: Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003)

Class 14: Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (올드보이) (2003)

Week 8 Train in Motion

Class 15: Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* (2013) [Film Screened in-class]

Class 16: Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* (2013)

Week 9 Train in Motion/Tokyo!

Class 17: Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* (2013)

Class 18: *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors) [Film screened in-class]

Week 10 Tokyo!

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

Class 20: *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

Week 11 Food and the Asian Urban

Class 21: Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014) [Film screened in-class]

Class 22: Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* (深夜食堂)[Midnight Diner] (2014)

Week 12 Food and the Asian Urban/ Multicultural Asia (?)

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

Class 24: Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (반두비) (2009) [Film screened in-class]

Week 13 Multicultural Asia (?)

Class 25: Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (반두비) (2009)

Class 26: Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (반두비) (2009)

Week 14 Multicultural Asia (?)

Class 27: Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (반두비) (2009)

Class 28: Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (반두비) (2009)

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Week 15 Catch-up

Class 29: Catch-up, Final exam info

Class 30: Final exam information

【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 on Blackboard, Attendance/participation, etc.): 40%
- 2) Midterm Paper: 30% (You are required to submit ONE essay by uploading the file on Blackboard). Details, instructions TBA. Paper due date: TBA (to be uploaded on Blackboard under “Midterm Paper” menu)
- 3) Final Exam: 30% (On designated exam date/time during Final Exam week, Details TBA)

Section 5 Work Outside of Class Activities

Please post your comments and/or questions about the readings/films at the end of every week. 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 class (on average it will be 1 post per week). 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. Over-due response postings will be discarded.