A Tale of Five Chinese Cities (ANS 372, 31840)

Instructor: Chien-hsin Tsai
Office Hour: T 11 am-2 pm or by appointment Office: WCH 5.104B
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Class location: GAR 0.132; Class time: TTH 9:30-11:00

Course Description:

A cultural critic Michel de Certeau once reminded us: "A city, no matter how efficiently planned out or how beautiful, is rendered worthless without people." Studies of cities thus are studies of people, their everyday life, and their stories. In this course, we will study both literary and cultural products about five Chinese cities: Beijing, Hong Kong, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Taipei. We will treat the featured cities not so much as a concrete jungle, but as an object of literary representation and a place of cultural production. By examining the themes such as modernization, migration, globalization, gender, and labor in literature and films about the five cities, we aim to radically rethink certain historical moments and the notion of Chineseness in an increasingly and culturally deterritorialized world.

Grading:

Attendance 10% and Class Participation 20% Two movie essays (2-3 pages) 30% Detailed Outline (3 pages) for final project 10% Final project 20 % Final project presentation 10%

Attendance and Participation

Attend lectures and discussions, <u>actively and consistently</u> engage in dialogues in class and online (discussion board). By dialogues, you are expected to raise questions and respond to questions about the readings from your classmates or the instructor. Note: Two undocumented absences will reduce both your attendance grades to 1/2, three to 1/4, three and more to ZERO. And when you don't attend the class, there are, logically, no points for participation.

Movie essays: Answer questions about movies watched and discussed in class. See the following for due dates.

Outline: A detailed outline of your project. Explain what your project is and its significance (Due Nov 12).

Final Project (Due 5pm Dec 10)

Possible topics for the final project:

- 1) Think of yourself as a director asked to make a informational video. Focus on aspects of a city that helps to promote the city. For instance, for Austin, food trailers have a prominent presence.
- 2) Make a no-more-than-7-minute clip about the "Chinatown" shopping mall in Austin. The clip should introduce your viewers to the different stores in the mall, their locations, what they sell,

their history, their cultural significance, etc. Assume the viewers know nothing about this place and will rely on your clip to have a better understanding of the history and the function of the mall. Get to know the mall and bring out a particular focus that might dovetail with themes/issues we have raised throughout the semester. You may also choose to design a website instead of a clip. For examples, see

- a. http://www.cidbia.org/ b. http://www.littleitalynyc.com/
- 3) Make an original short film (romantic comedy, thriller, etc.) that takes place in Austin (or a Chinese city).

Presentation

Present the findings of your final project. You may prepare powerpoint slides for your audience. Reading from your report instead of presenting its content will significantly lower your grade.

The instructor does not round up grades. A grade close to the next grade level (i.e. 79.5, 89.6) may be rounded up. This exception can be made if the student consistently and actively contributes to class discussions throughout the semester.

A	95-100	Α-	90-94		
B+	87-89	В	83-86	В-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F Belov	w 60				

Week 1

Aug 29 First class meeting; logistics

Week 2

Sep 3 Lecture: A brief history of Beijing Reading:

Lao She. Rickshaw Boy (Ch 1-14)

Sep 5 Discussion Reading:

Lao She. *Rickshaw Boy* (Ch 15~)

Week 3

Sep 10 Lecture and screening: The Tian'anmen (June 4) Incident Screening:

The Tank Man http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tankman/view/ Blood is on the Square: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4PJVLTrjt0

Reading:

Timothy Brook. Quelling the people: The military suppression of the Beijing democracy movement (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998), pp. ix-15.

Sep 12 Discussion

Week 4

Sep 17 Lecture: Youth in Beijing

Reading:

Chun Sue. Beijing Doll (First half)

Sep 19 Discussion

Reading:

Chun Sue. Beijing Doll (Second half) Joshua Neves. "Beijing en Abyme"

Week 5

Sep 24 Lecture and Screening: A Chinese nativist: Jia Zhangke

Movie:

Jia Zhangke. The World (105 mins, First half)

Sep 26 Screening and Discussion

Movie:

Jia Zhangke. The World (Second half)

Reading:

*Yomi Braester. "The Day Trip of Your Dreams: Globalizing Beijing and the Postspatial City" (Recommended but not required)

Week 6

Oct 1 Lecture: City, trauma, photography and history

Reading:

Iris Chang. The Rape of Nanking. Selected chapters.

Oct 3 Lecture and screening: The archaeology of Feeling

Movie:

Nanking (90 mins)

Week 7

Oct 8 Screening

Movie:

Nanking (90 mins)

Oct 10 Discussion Nanking

Week 8

Oct 15 Lecture: A brief history of Shanghai (First essay due)

Reading:

Stories by Neo-Sensationist writers.

Oct 17 Lecture and Discussion

Reading:

Wei Hui. Shanghai Baby

Week 9

Oct 22 Lecture and Screening: The 6th generation director: Lou Ye Movie:

Lou Ye. Suzhou River (83 mins)

Oct 24 Screening and Discussion

Lou Ye. Suzhou River

Reading:

*Robin Visser. "Shanghai Identity in Art, Film, and Fiction" (Recommended but not required)

Week 10

Oct 29 Lecture: From colonial to postcolonial memories

Reading:

Xi Xi. Selected stories.

Stephen Chan. "The Cultural Imaginary of a City: Reading Hong Kong Through Xi Xi."

http://www.utxa.eblib.com/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=121816

Oct 31 Lecture and Discussion

Reading:

Ye Si (P. K. Leung). Selected stories.

P. K. Leung. "Understanding the Cultural Identity of Hong Kong through Its Food."

Week 11

Nov 5 Lecture and Screening: Hong Kong Auteur: Wong Kar-wai

Movie:

Wong Kar-wai. In the Mood for Love (98 mins)

Nov 7 Screening and Discussion

Movie:

Wong Kar-wai. In the Mood for Love

Reading:

*Ackbar Abbas. "Wong Kar-wai: Hong Kong Filmmaker" (Recommended but not

Week 12

required)

Nov 12 Lecture: A brief history of Taiwan (Outline due)

Reading:

Joseph Allen. "Naming the Island."

Nov 14 Lecture and discussion

Reading:

Pai Hsien-yung. Taipei People. Selected chapters.

Week 13

Nov 19 Lecture: Migrant workers in Taiwan

Movie:

Pinoy Sunday (100 mins)

Nov 21 Screening and Discussion

Pinoy Sunday

Reading:

*Lan Pei-chia. Selected chapters from Global Cinderellas (Recommended but not

required)

Week 14

Nov 26 Presentation I **(Second essay due)** Nov 28 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS

Week 15

Dec 3 Presentation II Dec 5 Presentation III

Upload your final project clip to Youtube, Vimeo, or the like by 5pm, Dec 10

UT Policies

- Academic integrity: You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors, **such as plagiarism, copying of another student's work**, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an "F" for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work and/or discuss this with the instructor: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sis/acint_student.php
- University Electronic Notification Mail Policy: In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of
 communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class
 announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy (please see
 http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html), it is your responsibility to update your
 email address and to check your e-mail regularly.
- Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, please see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/
- Use of CANVAS in Class: **Most of our readings are available on CANVAS**. You should print out and bring your readings to class. Please allow yourself enough time before an assignment is due. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. CANVAS is available at http://canvas.utexas.edu/ Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.
- Religious Holidays: If you will need to miss class, tests, or other assignments due to the observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you have missed provided you notify me at least one week prior to the absence.