ANS 372 (31550) Envisioning (Post)Coloniality: Taiwan and the Cultural Imaginary

Instructor: Chien-hsin Tsai  Office: WCH 5.104A  Office Hours, TTH 2:00-3:30 pm  chtsai@mail.utexas.edu
Class location: GAR 0.132  Class time: TTH 12:30-2:00

Course Description:
Taiwan was colonized by Japan for 50 years from 1895 to 1945. This 50-year period marks a decisive watershed in terms of social, cultural, and economic developments between Taiwan and China. To date, Taiwan remains a site of contestation between postcolonial and national discourses, and provides a contrastive entrance to further studies of the rise of China in the 21st century.

In this class, we will study films, fictional writings, and other cultural products (e.g. music, art, etc.) from Taiwan and see how they help construct a unique historical consciousness and local identity. This class will also examine how such consciousness help the people of Taiwan project certain cultural imagainaries onto practices of everyday life. Throughout the semester, we will ponder the following questions with regard to Taiwan’s colonial experiences and postcolonial status in relation to its position, geographically, politically, and culturally speaking, on the global stage:

How do writers and filmmakers in Taiwan imagine various spaces that undergo rapid modernization? How do they document the transformation of landscapes, negotiate with political ideologies, and engage in certain identifications through films and texts? And how do we reflect on such a wide array of cultural products, political beliefs, and contradicting (hi)stories as objectively as possible, refraining from any cultural essentialism and ideological preoccupation?

Grading:
Attendance (15%) and Participation (20%)  35%
Two film essays  20%
Final project presentation  15%
Final video clip project  30%

Participation:
Attend lectures and discussions, actively and consistently engage in dialogues in class. You are expected to raise questions/comments and respond to those from your classmates or the instructor. Two undocumented absences will reduce your grade of participation to ¼, and three to ZERO.

Film essays (3-4 pages each):
Reflect critically on the films watched. For examples, explain how women are portrayed a particular film/novel and the significance. The significance of a certain element (character, music, landscape, props, etc.) in the film/novel. Or the technical aspects of the film/novel (camera angles, setting, languages, characterization, etc.).

Presentation:
Length to be finalized, possibly 8-10 minutes, depending on final enrollment. Presenting is the key. Please keep in mind that presentation is about presenting not reading. Reading will result in a less desirable grade.

**Final video clip project:**
Group of two. Please make a 5-7-minute video clip (Think Youtube or the like) about a topic of your choice. The clip should contain a voice-over narration, reflecting on your data/interpretation etc. It should be more than a collection of images. Examples will be shown in class. Possible topics include but are not limited to the following: Food culture/Music/Migrant workers/Critical analysis of a film or a novel/Religious rituals/Language/Sport and history/TV shows/Identity politics/Museum exhibitions/Fashion/Cosmetic surgery/Interviews…

**Week 1: Introduction**

August 25: General Introduction/Logistics

A brief general history of Taiwan

**Week 2: Trauma and Memory**

August 30 Colonialism, 2-28 Incident, Hospitality, White Terror
September 1 Images and stories of 2-28 Incident, Discussion

1. Dori Laub. Chapters 2-3 in *Testimony*

**Week 3: Formosa Betrayed**

September 6 Two Chinas? Free China; Communists vs. nationalists
September 8 Screening and Discussion

1. George Kerr. *Formosa Betrayed.* (Recommended)
   
   [http://homepage.usask.ca/~lir130/taiwanlibrary/kerr/kerr.pdf](http://homepage.usask.ca/~lir130/taiwanlibrary/kerr/kerr.pdf)

**Week 4: Cultural Production under Martial Law**

September 13 Anti-communist campaign, Health realism, Taiwan new cinema
September 15 Discussion

1. *The Taste of Apples*
   
**Week 5:** Contesting Patriarchy

September 20 Women and queer writers in Taiwan; Traffic in women
September 22 Discussion

1. Li Ang, *The Butcher's Wife*
2. Selected queer stories

**Week 6:** Unspeakable Desire

September 27 Tsai Ming-liang; Mei-ling Chou, *Drifting Flowers*
September 29 *Drifting Flowers*

1. Tzu-lan Sang, “Lesbian Activism”

**Week 7:** City and Globalization

October 4 **First paper due:** Discussion; city vs. country
October 6 Globalization, urban culture, consumerism

2. Yuan Qiongqiong. “Tales of Taipei”
   [http://books.google.com/books?id=DRt84_yIsrAC&pg=PA314&lpg=PA314&dq=yuan+qiongqiong+tales+of+taipei&source=bl&ots=z_4hVsOjf1&sig=6IJMPCeJw6NPAcxKuXHITbhufew&hl=en&ei=ObQ2TocKGKmosALahaTICg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=yuan%20qiongqiong%20tales%20of%20taipei&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=DRt84_yIsrAC&pg=PA314&lpg=PA314&dq=yuan+qiongqiong+tales+of+taipei&source=bl&ots=z_4hVsOjf1&sig=6IJMPCeJw6NPAcxKuXHITbhufew&hl=en&ei=ObQ2TocKGKmosALahaTICg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=yuan%20qiongqiong%20tales%20of%20taipei&f=false)

**Week 8:** Disjuncture and Difference

October 11 Changing scapes, hybridity, visuality
October 13 Discussion

1. Arjun Appadurai. “Disjuncture and Difference”
2. Chapters 4, 7, and conclusion in *Framing the Bride*
   [https://login.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/login?qurl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.netLibrary.com%2furlapi.asp%3faction%3dssummary%26v%3d1%26bookid%3d108413](https://login.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/login?qurl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.netLibrary.com%2furlapi.asp%3faction%3dssummary%26v%3d1%26bookid%3d108413)
Week 9: (Post)colonial Memory and media
October 18 Cultural proximity; cultural imperialism
October 20 Discussion

1. Iwabuchi Koichi, “Becoming culturally proximate”

Week 10: Sinophone Articulations
October 25 Language, identity, sound and script
October 27 Discussion

1. Poems by Chen Li and Xia Yu in *Frontier Taiwan*
2. Hsi-yao Su, “The Multilingual and Multiorthographic Taiwan-Based Internet”

Week 11: Colonial Apparitions
November 1 Colonial specter and *Cape No. 7*
November 3 Discussion

1. Sheng-mei Ma, “Found(l)ing Taiwanese”

Week 12: Culinary Modernity
November 8 *Second paper due;* Food, identity, authenticity
November 10 Discussion; diaspora

1. Arjun Appadurai: “How to Make a National Cuisine”
2. Chapter 7 in *China to Chinatown*
   [http://www.utxa.eblib.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=449434&userid=Q1%2bsNKxZFlg%3d&timestamp=1312292588&id=DC7934DB2304EAB1AF657B06F00F39CE8B495365](http://www.utxa.eblib.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=449434&userid=Q1%2bsNKxZFlg%3d&timestamp=1312292588&id=DC7934DB2304EAB1AF657B06F00F39CE8B495365)

Week 13: Final Screening
November 15 Lecture; *Eat Drink Men Women*
November 17 Discussion

1. Chapter 8 in *China to Chinatown* (See link #2 in Week 12)

Week 14: Presentation Week I
November 22 Presentation I
November 24 Thanksgiving. No class.

Week 15: Presentation Week II
Official 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/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/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](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/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/)

- Use of Blackboard in Class: **Most of our readings are available on blackboard.** 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. Blackboard is available at [http://courses.utexas.edu](http://courses.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.

Letter-Numeric grade correspondence

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