Course Description:
In this class, we will study films, fictional writings, and other cultural products (e.g. music, art, etc.) from Taiwan and discuss how they help construct a unique historical consciousness and local identity. This class will also examine how such consciousness helps the people of Taiwan project certain cultural imaginaries onto various practices in everyday life. Throughout the semester, we will ponder the following questions with regard to Taiwan's colonial experiences and postcolonial status 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 this wide array of cultural products, political beliefs, and contradicting (hi)stories without retreating to cultural essentialism or ideological preoccupation?

Grading:
Attendance (15%) and Participation (20%) 35%
Weekly posting 15%
Short Essays 10%
Group project presentation 15%
Group project 25%

Reading:
See corresponding file folders on Canvas

Part I  The Macro View
Week 1  Logistics

Week 2  From Japanese Colonialism to Chinese Nationalism

Week 3  From Chinese Nationalism to Taiwanese Nativism/Nationalism

Week 4  Formosa Betrayed

Week 5  Diplomatic Conundrums

Week 6  Literary and Cultural Policies

Week 7  In-Class Group Project Exercise

Part II  The Micro View
Week 8  The Old Capital

Week 9  Modernity at Large
Week 10  Cultural Proximity
Week 11  Envisioning (Post)Coloniality
Week 12  In-Class Group Exercise II
Week 13  Thanksgiving week (No class)
Week 14  Taiwan in the Age of the Anthropocene
Week 15  Group Presentations

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

- 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://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.