

Fall 2023

HSS-404 (025): Literature Seminar: The Wonders of World Cinema

Kim Chen

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New Jersey Institute of Technology
Lit Sem: The Wonders of World Cinema
HSS 404 025
T, F 11:30am – 12:50pm
Fall 2023

Kim Chen

Office hours: M,F 10-12, W 12-2

or by appointment on Webex

Office location: TBD

email: kchen@njit.edu

Course Description

This seminar will take us to lands around the world for a compassionate look at the concerns and celebrations of various cinematic movements and cultures. We will examine subject matter, dialogue, genre, and visual forms of the various films we view in an effort to understand what each country considers valuable and how those efforts contribute to the art of cinema (or the commodification). Considerations of race, class, gender and sexual orientation will be central to our discussions. Final projects can be created around subject matter or cinematic theme, movement or country.

Prerequisites

GER 300 Lib Arts

Course Goals

- To critically analyze international films and find common human themes much like we do in literature and then move beyond with film language.
- To examine film as an art and/or commodity.
- To apply theories of film in critical analysis to better understand how individual and national structures are composed.
- To learn to learn about film, searching for resources as questions arise in class discussion and from assigned readings and screenings.
- To make substantial contributions to the making of meaning unique to watching film.
- To develop an original research project that utilizes research techniques and composition to enter into a conversation about film.

Required Texts

There are no required textbooks for this course; however, expect to rent or purchase movies as your text for the course. Reading materials will be set up in pdf form on Canvas, including weekly required readings, book excerpts, websites, etc.

Assessment

Grade breakdown is as follows:

Participation and attendance

15%

Class participation includes regular attendance and engagement in class activities. A seminar course by nature depends on active engagement with the films and readings and interaction with one another. To succeed here you need to be both seen and heard in discussion. **You must watch the movies and complete the readings before the class period for which it is assigned.** Your withdrawal from discussion may be evidence that you are not prepared.

Activities may include whole group discussion/meaning making, discussion board writing, sharing of film clips, library research.

Listen carefully each class session to determine what is expected for the coming class. Some assignments may run longer (or shorter) so the schedule could need to be adjusted from the original plan.

In the event that online synchronous meetings become necessary, cameras are required for full participation.

Four 2-page mini-essays

5 x 4

Choose four of the films in our course schedule before November 1 and write four **2-page essays**.

You write only 4 mini-essays and not a mini-essay for every film.

During three of the weeks shown below, you will work with the films, readings and discussion and your own research, to piece together **2-page mini-essays** which focus on **one aspect** of the film or topic for that week. These aspects may include one of the following: subject matter and themes, director, national cinema considerations, theory and/or close cinematic analysis using the tools you are collecting. If you work with more than one element, then there should be overlap/connections between the two. Cite all sources including the new ones that you find.

Summaries of the movie and literature review work with thematic elements only are not acceptable. These mini-essays must show **critical film evaluation** at work.

Video essay

On one film element seen in several movies

20%

Research essay with film analysis using film language:

Midterm presentation of proposed topic for final research essay	5%
Final research essay on a film technique, director, genre, or technical aspect (5-7 pages)	25%
Final presentation on research essay (maximum 12 minutes)	15%

This **5-7-page argument essay** should be densely packed using the tools and techniques you have built during the course to examine a particular film or other well-defined topic. You must include at least 4 academic sources as well as other appropriate film studies sources to complete this assignment and receive a grade.

We will work on these beginning early in the course and make frequent reference to how they may be structured and built. This should not be a hastily written essay pulled together in the last week but should show your careful calculations and creative thoughts from coursework throughout.

All written assignments must be submitted on Canvas (which automatically assesses for plagiarism using Turnitin).

Final grades are calculated on separate Excel sheets and not on Canvas. You will, however, be graded on mini-essays, final research essay, participation grades and presentation on Canvas. The total of grades on Canvas does not equal your grade for the course.

University grade scale:

A = 100-90	B+ = 89=87	B = 86-80	C+ = 79-77	C = 76-70	D = 69-60	F = 59-0
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Technology

Our NJIT email will be our primary method of communication with Canvas used for essays, readings and assignments. Remember to maintain an appropriate tone in all school-related correspondence. Include an appropriate subject line and your name in all emails.

Cell phones should not be used during class unless needed for a specific activity. Let's resist the distraction and focus on one thing at a time - classroom lessons, activities and discussion. Active engagement in class leads to better outcomes. Please set your phones to silent as a courtesy to your classmates and instructor.

Laptops should only be used when we are drafting, researching, note taking or otherwise engaging in classroom activities. Practice professional, focused behavior now and make it a habit. You will be better prepared for the work world!

NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity

The New Jersey Institute of Technology is an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge through teaching and research. We expect our graduates to assume positions of leadership within their professions and communities. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity.

The NJIT Code of Academic Integrity embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of the university and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the university community.

All assignments submitted shall be considered “graded work” and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Code on Academic Integrity. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified. Suspected violations of this code will be reported directly to the Dean of Students for adjudication.

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

The full text of the NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity can be found at www.njit.edu/education/pdf/academic-integrity-code-pdf.

Accessibility Needs

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact Student Disability Services at 973-596-3420.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center (G17 Central King) is available for individual and group appointments with professional writing tutors. This resource helps you to improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. The Writing Center is not simply a grammar fix or editing service. For more information, please visit <http://www5.njit.edu/writingcenter/schedule-writing-center-appointment/>

Pandemic Policies as of 9/1/22

Current NJIT policy recommends, but does not require, individuals to wear masks indoors in instructional spaces. We remind all community members that people can wear a mask based on individual preference, informed by personal level of risk.

If Covid-like symptoms are experienced, you should test immediately and isolate until the test result is known. If you test positive, continue to isolate and send notification to Campus Health Services at covid.notify@njit.edu.

Campus Health Services will notify the Dean of Students Office when students require an excusal related to a positive Covid test result. The Dean of Students Office will notify the students' instructors of the excused absence. Accommodations for making up missed classes and assignments will be at the discretion of the instructor.

If you test positive for COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider, then send a notification to Covid.notify@njit.edu and hyoung@njit.edu.

NEED HELP? KNOW WHO TO CALL

Please note following important numbers that will come in handy in case of emergency:

EXTERNAL RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
Suicide Prevention	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 623-2323 (University Hospital-Newark)
Drug/ Alcohol Addiction	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 630-8262
Crime Victim Compensation Office	Monday – Friday 8 AM – 8 PM	(877) 658-2221
Rape Care Center	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(877) 733-2273 (Essex County)
Sexual Assault Hotline	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(800) 656-HOPE (National)
Psychiatric Emergency	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 924-7416 (Newark Beth Israel Hospital)
NJIT RESOURCES	AVAILABILITY	CONTACT NUMBER
NJIT Public Safety	24 hrs/ 7 days a week	(973) 596-3111 (Emergency) (973) 596-3120 (Non-Emergency)
Dean of Students (TITLE IX – Sexual Misconduct Report/Response)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3466
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 5 PM	(973) 596-3414
Student Health Services (SHS)	Monday – Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	(973) 596-3621