

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 110

HONG KONG CINEMA

Spring 2023

Sheldon Lu

Time

Lecture: 10:30 –11:50 am, Tuesday & Thursday, Wellman 2

Original weekly evening screening: 5:10 pm, Wednesday, TLC 1010, now students watch digitized films in Canvas course site on their own remotely

Expanded Course Description

This course is a study of the cinema of Hong Kong, a cultural crossroads between East and West. Students examine the history, genres, styles, stars, and major directors of Hong Kong cinema in reference to the city's multi-linguistic, colonial, and postcolonial environment. The course pays special attention to Hong Kong cinema's interactions with and influences on other filmic traditions such as Hollywood and Asian cinema. Topics include: characteristics of Hong Kong cinema as a local, regional, and global cinema; historical evolution of film genres and styles; major directors and stars; film adaptation of literary works about Hong Kong; Hong Kong cinema's international influence. The class will watch and discuss films involving directors, actors, and actresses such as Wong Kar-wai, John Woo, Stephen Chow, Ann Hui, Peter Chan, Fruit Chan, Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, Chow Yun-fat, Tony Leung, Andy Lau, Michelle Yeoh, Maggie Cheung, and many others.

Upper-division standing. The class is conducted in English, and all films are subtitled in English.

The course fulfills the following General Education requirements: Arts & Humanities, Visual Literacy, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.

Textbooks

David Bordwell. *Planet Hong Kong: Popular Cinema and the Art of Entertainment*. 2nd edition. Madison: Irvington Way Institute Press, 2011. The PDF of the book is free at <http://www.davidbordwell.net/books/planethongkong.php>

A Companion to Hong Kong Cinema. Edited by Esther Cheung, Gina Marchetti, and Esther Yau. Wiley-Blackwell, 2015. Available as e-book in the UC Davis Library.