

**Course Description:** This course will consider the societies of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong through their portrayals in cinema with attention to the political and social forces that shape these portrayals.

China in the twentieth century has experienced tumultuous change. Since the 1920s much of this change has been mirrored in the feature films produced by Chinese directors. In addition to serving as a mirror of changing visions of Chinese society, the film industry has itself been subject to the economic and political pressures characterizing this society. This course looks at such issues as changes in the family system, gender roles, ethnic identities, class relationships and the urban-rural dichotomy in modern China as these are portrayed in Chinese film. It also analyzes the distortions in these portrayals in so far as they reflect responses by the film industry to economic and political forces in the PRC, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

### **Course Goals**

At the conclusion of this course you will be familiar with key Chinese cultural values and their connections to Confucian, Daoist and other traditions. You will also be able to discuss the way modern Chinese society has evolved in response to forces of modernization and globalization, starting with the Opium War of 1839-42. Finally you will be able to discuss the major trends in Chinese film making since the 1940s and some of China's most prominent directors, with particular reference to differences rooted in the different experiences typical of Hong Kong, Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

### **Credit Hour Statement**

This course is a four credit-hour course. The value of four credit hours results from work expected of enrolled students both inside and outside of the classroom. Rollins' faculty require that students average approximately three hours of outside work for every hour of scheduled class time. In this course, the additional outside of class expectations include:

Weekly reading  
Viewing films  
Writing responses to films  
Preparing classroom presentations based on readings and film viewings  
Studying for quizzes and tests  
Researching and writing papers

**Text:** *China in the Twenty-First Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jeffrey Wasserstrom (2013)

In addition to this text, further reading assignments will include articles from American and international periodicals relevant to contemporary Chinese society.

## Academic Standards, Attendance and Participation

You should expect that class assignments will require three hours outside of class for every hour in class. Budget your time accordingly. Attendance is crucial for success in this course. Come to class prepared. Don't be shy about taking the initiative to help move the class discussion along. Raise points that you think are worth special attention and ask questions on points that are unclear. More voices make things more interesting, and everyone should have an opinion about the key issues in the material covered.

*Don't let unexpected circumstances such as illnesses throw you off. Prepare ahead in completing your assignments so that even if personal or other events cut into your schedule, you will be able to hand everything in on time.*

## The Academic Honor Code

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires commitment to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

**“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”**

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge: submission implies signing the pledge.

**Plagiarism:** You must distinguish clearly between your work and the work of others. To do otherwise may constitute plagiarism. The formal policy is: “If you fail to acknowledge borrowed material, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is literary theft. When you copy the words of another, put those words inside quotation marks, and acknowledge the source with a footnote. When you paraphrase another's words, use your own words and your own sentence structure, and be sure to use a footnote giving the source of the idea. A plagiarist often merely changes a few words or simply rearranges the words in the source.” (*Harbrace College Handbook*, p. 407)

## Attendance

Your attendance of every class session is essential. The first two absences will be forgiven. Students with more than two absences will have points deducted from their final grade point average, starting with ½ point for each absence after two. Participation will also lower your grade, if you are not contributing appropriately to class discussions.

**This course is available on Blackboard where information will be posted periodically. Be sure to refer to your Rollins email address regularly since assignments and other information will be sent to you at that address.**

**Video and Test Make-ups:** Video and test make-ups are available with excused absences. You are responsible to contact Mrs. Byrd ([hbyrd@rollins.edu](mailto:hbyrd@rollins.edu) or extension 2670) to schedule your missed video.

**Grades:** Grades will be based on two in-class exams, one of which is the final exam (20% each), a research paper (30 %) and various in-class presentations, quizzes and take-home writing assignments (30% all together).

Grading scale:	93-100 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	0-59 F
	90-92 A-	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	
		80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

### **In-Class Presentations**

On a designated date during the first half of the semester (between September 3 and October 1), you will make a 15-minute classroom presentation on some aspect of Modern Chinese history. These presentations may incorporate references to specific Chinese movies and include scenes from pertinent movies, but it is not required that they do so.

On a designated date during the second half of the semester (between October 15 and November 19) you will make a 15-minute classroom presentation on your Final Research Paper. Again, these presentations may incorporate references to specific Chinese movies and include scenes from pertinent movies, but it is not required that they do so.

**Optional Lab:** Films will be shown on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 in CSS 100. Most are also available in the Olin Library or on-line.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodation in order to participate in this class, please make appropriate arrangements with Gail C. Ridgeway, Disability Services Coordinator, who can be found at the Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center: (407) 646-2354, or via e-mail at [gridgeway@rollins.edu](mailto:gridgeway@rollins.edu). Requests for accommodations must be made as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course and Instructor Evaluation**

At the end of each semester, students are asked to evaluate the course and instructor. These evaluations are extremely valuable in the teaching and learning process on our campus. Student evaluations help assess student perceptions of classroom learning and often lead to improved teaching. Your feedback is important and Rollins students are encouraged to be honest, fair, and reflective in the evaluation process.

The online evaluative survey is anonymous. Students are never identified as the respondent. Instead, each student's comments are assigned a random number. You will be asked to rate your course and instructor on a numerical scale and through narrative comments.

The online Course and Instructor Evaluation (CIE) process opens at 8:00 a.m. on the first scheduled date. It remains open for a period of 14 days (2 weeks) until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on the final scheduled date. The evaluation period ends prior to the start of final examinations and faculty cannot access completed evaluations until 10 days after the end of final exams.

Students will receive one email at the start of the CIE period, one after the 15th day, and a final reminder the day before the CIE period ends. Students who complete evaluations for all classes will be able to view grades ten-days before students who do not complete an evaluation form.

The following course outline is subject to revision during the semester. Students are responsible for changes in exam schedules or any other changes that may be presented in class.

## COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	FILMS	READINGS & TOPICS
Aug. 25/27	Introduction: China's Cultural Foundations	Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism Wasserstrom: pp. 1-22
Sept. 1/3	The First Opium War <i>The Opium War</i> (1997)	Lin Tse-hsu's letter to Victoria Wasserstrom: pp. 23-40
Sept. 8/10	Fall of the Qing, Rise of the Republic <i>The Family</i> (1956)	Boxer Uprising & May Fourth Movement Wasserstrom: pp. 41-52
Sept. 15/17	Social Class and Revolution <i>Crows and Sparrows</i> (1949)	Marxism & Maoism Wasserstrom: pp. 52-71
Sept. 22/24	China's Fifth Generation Directors <i>To Live</i> (1994)	Republic & People's Republic Wasserstrom: pp. 73-112
Sept. 29/Oct. 1	Japan in China: Patriotism and Passion <i>Lust, Caution</i> (2007)	World War II: China's Perspective Wasserstrom: pp. 113-138
Oct. 6/8	Consumerism and Rural China <i>Ermo</i> (1994)	<b>EXAM I – October 8</b>
Oct. 13/15	The Sixth Generation: Urban Grit <i>Beijing Bicycle</i> (2001)	Rural vs. Urban China
Oct. 20/22	Taiwan: The Family in the Modern City <i>Eat Drink Man Woman</i> (1994)	The Other China
Oct. 27/29	Hong Kong Variations <i>Chungking Express</i> (1994)	One Country, Two Systems
Nov. 3/5	Post-socialist Cinema: Whose Story? <i>Suzhou River</i> (2000)	<i>First Draft of Research Paper Due</i> Due Date: November 5
Nov. 10/12	Bitter Enders <i>Blind Shaft</i> (2003)	Corruption
Nov. 17/19	Urban Life: Change and Continuity <i>Shower</i> (1999)	<i>Second Draft of Research Paper Due</i> Due Date: November 19
Nov. 24	China and the West <i>Big Shot's Funeral</i> (2001)	Globalization, Postmodernism
<b>THANKSGIVING – NOVEMBER 26</b>		
Dec. 1/3	Review FINAL SEMINAR PAPER DUE ON DEC. 3	<i>Final Paper Due: December 3</i>
Dec. 8	<b>FINAL EXAM, Tuesday, December 8, 5:15-6:30 PM</b>	

Students are responsible for keeping up with any changes to the syllabus that may be announced in class.