

Course Title	: Cross-cultural Perspectives in Film: Thematic Comparisons
Course Code	: TRA3238
Recommended Study Year	: 2 to 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Elective (Category B)
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

This course uses films to examine different cultures, focusing particularly on East-West contrasts. The films selected for comparison are chosen according to a common theme, so that different perspectives on human nature can be explored, in order to appreciate the different paradigms underlying different traditions. The approach is a study of culture through film, and the readings will focus on a comparison of cultures and cultural values.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

Using film as a window to culture, this course guides students to observe the different, sometimes contrastive ways in which common themes are handled in Western and Asian movies, and to develop an appreciation for the different “cultural logics” underlying the narrative in each film. The objective is to enable students to understand different points of view, particularly those with which they may be unfamiliar.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyse cultural meanings in films;
2. compare and contrast different cultural concepts in films; and
3. analyse and criticize the similarities and differences in cultural imaginations.

Indicative Content:

1. Different thematic comparisons of films on topics including city and its subjectivity, gender and politics, comedy and tragedy.
2. Critical and cultural theories.
3. Theories on film studies.

Teaching Method:

Lectures and tutorial discussions

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

Students’ progress towards the learning outcomes will be measured by means of:

1. “Viewing notes” in which students are required to analyse cultural meanings in films; [LOs 1-3]

2. A tutorial presentation that requires students to discuss and examine a film on a specific topic; [LOs 1-3]
3. A term paper that requires students to compare and contrast different cultural concepts in films, and analyse the similarities and differences in cultural imaginations. [LOs 1-3]

Assessment:

Continuous assessment: 100%

Viewing notes (due before each lecture, to be submitted by email) (5% x 8=40%);

Tutorial participation and presentation (20%);

Term paper (40%)

Readings:

James Goodwin, *Akira Kurosawa and Intertextual Cinema*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

Lloyd Michaels, ed., *Ingmar Bergman's Persona*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Mitsuhiko Yoshimoto, *Kurosawa: Film Studies and Japanese Cinema*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Paisley Livingston, *Ingmar Bergman and the Rituals of Art*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982.

Paul Cronin, ed., *Roman Polanski: Interviews*, Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005.

Rey Chow. 'A Souvenir of Love', *At Full Speed: Hong Kong Cinema in a Borderless World*, Ed. Esther C. M. Yau. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001, 209-230.

Slavoj Žižek, *How to Read Lacan*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2007.

Stephen Prince, *The Warrior's Camera: The Cinema of Akira Kurosawa*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.