

Prof. Steven Parish
Summer Session 2018
Room: CSB 001 Time: 5-7:50 pm

ANSC 166 Film and Culture in Asia

Welcome!

This course uses film to explore cultural life in Asia. Our perspective is anthropological: we want to use film to understand aspects of life in the societies and cultures of Asia. To this end, we will view films from India, Thailand, China, Japan and Korea, discuss them, and set them in cultural context.

This term the course will focus especially on the following themes:

- Tensions between modernity and tradition
- Gender as a cultural construction
- The impact of history and politics on everyday life
- Self-making and ethical subjectivity
- Religion in Asian film and cultural life

However, we may also discuss topics as varied as Bollywood dancing, the interaction of culture and creativity, ghost stories, the art of subtitling, and much more.

Films or excerpts of films will be screened in class or at designated screening time, or made available through the library.

Your grade will be based on a total of **five** response short papers (2-4 pages) and a final exam.

The papers will have **three** basic parts—

- 1) a brief (one paragraph) **summary** or overview of the film;
- 2) a one page **analysis** or discussion of a film in terms of what it shows about cultural life; and
- 3) your **personal response** or thoughts about the film.

Please keep copies of your papers since you will be asked to turn them all in along with the final.

The papers are due Mondays, except for the last paper, which you will turn on Wed of the last week because of the holiday.

You are required to do one paper on an Asian film of your choice that is not on the syllabus.

This mean you will turn in a total five response papers—four based on films covered in lectures, and one you find outside class.

Japanese Studies: your outside films **must** be from Japan area of concentration and you must turn in a minimum of four response papers from films from Japan, etc. With approval, you may substitute one film you identify for a film screened in class. You may also *compare* Japanese and non-Japanese films.

Extra credit will be given for an extra paper.

Note: **UCSD standards of academic integrity apply to this course.**

VERY TENTATIVE Schedule of Films, Lectures and Discussions

Week 1

Monday (August 6) Challenges of everyday cultural life: Family, ritual, stigma, and humor

Film: Departures (Japan, 2008, directed by Yōjirō Takita)

Wed. (August 8): How can we get along? Politics and the tensions of everyday life.

Film: Mr. and Mrs. Iyer (India, 2002, directed by Aparna Sen)

Week 2

Mon (August 13): Identity and Everyday Life

Film The Makioka Sisters (Japan) OR Taxing Woman (Japan) OR The Ballad of Narayama (Japan, 2008, directed by Shohei Imamura OR Swades (India)

Tues. (August 15): Culture, Gender, Personhood

Film: Water (India/Canada, directed by Deepa Mehta, 2006)

Reading: chaps. 1 and 7 from S. Lamb, White Saris and Sweet Mangoes (posted on TritonEd)

Week 3

Mon. (August 20): History, Politics and Everyday Life in China

Film: To Live (China, 1994, directed by Zhang Yimou)

By week three, read the novel, To Live, by Yu Hua. Available on Amazon.

Wed. (August 22) : The Wind Rises (tentative) (Japan)

Week 4

Mon. (August 27) : Buddhism in Film—Karma and Self-making

Film: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring (South Korea, directed by Kim Ki-duk, 2003)

Thurs. (August 29): Is Modernity an Age of Social and Psychological Abandonment?

Film: Tokyo Story (Japan) or Nobody Knows (Japan)

Week 5

Monday. (Sept. 3): Labor Day Holiday, no class: catch up on your own films.

Wed. (Sept. 5) Romance on the Sly in Hong Kong

Film: Chung King Express (Hong Kong, 1994, Wang Kar Wai)

Final. Due Sept.