Histories of the Communication of films between U.S. and China after WWII

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Course description

• The historical backgrounds of both U.S. and Chinese films
• The features of films in both country in each period
• The influences of U.S. films on Chinese films, and vice versa
Learning goal

• To explore aesthetic values of films ❌
• To gain knowledge of factors that influence the status of films ✓
• To understand the forces that facilitate or inhibit intercultural communication ✓
• To develop the skill and ability of film culture analysis from the perspective of intercultural communication ✓
Course design

• 2 credits, 36 hours, 18 sections, 9 weeks

• Part 1: American films in certain time period: historical backgrounds and main features
• Part 2: Chinese films in certain time period: historical backgrounds and main features
• Part 3: Status of (non)communication
• Part 4: Screening: films or film clips in certain time period in two countries
• Part 5: Comprehension and discussion
Teaching Materials

- Text books (in class lecturing)
- Academic paper (pre-class reading)
- Videos (in class screening and discussion)
Week 1: 1900-1930s

- Introduction: Silent film and sound film before 1930 (1st generation)

- A trip to the Moon 1902
- The birth of a nation 1915
- The Battle of Dingjunshan 1905
Week 2: 1930-1950s

• The War context: Films during WWII (2nd generation)

- *Casablanca* (1943)
- *Gone with the Wind* (1939)
- *Defend Our Land* (1938)
- *Spring in a Small Town* (1948)
Week 3: 1950-1970s

- The Isolation from western world (3rd generation)

- Sing in the Rain, 1952

- Psycho, 1960

- Fighting North and South, 1952
Week 4: 1970-1980s

- Regeneration of the connection (4th generation)

左手至 Star Wars 1977

→ Taxi Driver 1976

The Godfather, 1972

Sparking Red Star, 1974
Week 5: 1980-2000s

- A cultural retrospect (5th generation)
Week 6: 2000s-now

- Reflections and critics (6th generation)

Kungfu Panda
2008

Still Life
2006
Week 7: Case Study 1

• The beginning of commercial movies

Hero
(Zhang Yimou, 2002)

Titanic
(Cameron, 1997)
Week 8: Case Study 2

• The debate of the film rating system

The Mummy Returns
(Sommers, 2001)
Week 9: Case Study 3

- The 3D age

- The Ghouls
  (Wu Ershan, 2015)

- Avatar
  (Cameron, 2009)
Graded Work

- Participation and discussion
- Exams
- Final paper
THANK YOU