

Code: BMI-FLMD-214E.15

Course title: Authorship and Genre: The films of Ang Lee

Course convenors: Dr. Teréz Vincze

Class time and place: Thursday 10.45-12.15, 6-8, Múzeum krt. (Main building) basement -137.

Course type: Seminar

Course content: The aim of the course is to study the cinematic oeuvre of one of the most interesting East-Asian auteurs, the Taiwanese director Ang Lee. His works provide a blend of art house cinema authorship and blockbuster aesthetics, encompassing Asian and Western sensibilities. By studying his works, we will acquire knowledge about Taiwanese film history and Chinese culture, and engage in discussions regarding questions of authorship within different contexts (art house vs. commercial, Eastern vs. Western). After introductory classes on Taiwanese film history and Ang Lee himself, the semester will follow the topics outlined in the book "The Cinema of Ang Lee" by W. Crothers Dille. Each class will focus on the analysis of a specific film by Lee. The discussion will be initiated by student presentations about the film in question.

Films to be discussed:

Pushing Hands

The Wedding Banquet

Eat Drink Man Woman

Sense and Sensibility

The Ice Storm

Ride With the Devil

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Hulk

Brokeback Mountain

Lust/Caution

Taking Woodstock

Life of Pi

Requirements: 1. **Quick tests** about the compulsory film and reading at the beginning of each class.
2. **Presentation:** each student must give a 15-minute in-class presentation about one of the films.
3. **Class participation:** Continuous attendance and active participation in class are required. **More than three absences will result in an incomplete for the course!**

Grade calculation: quick tests (40%) + presentation (40%) + in-class activity (20%) = 100%

Learning outcomes: The students will learn about the history of East Asian cinema, with a particular emphasis on Taiwanese film history and the concept of authorship within the East Asian context. Through the analysis of both art house and commercial works, they will not only enhance their skills in film analysis but also gain insight into the distinct stylistic and genre-specific aspects of filmmaking.

Compulsory reading: Whitney Crothers Dille. *The Cinema of Ang Lee: The Other Side of the Screen*. Wallflower Press, 2014.

Recommended readings: Mills, Cliff. *Ang Lee*. Infobase Publishing, 2009.
Fuller, Karla Rae, editor. *Ang Lee: Interviews*. University Press of Mississippi, 2016.
Lim, Song Hwee. "Speaking in Tongues: Ang Lee, Accented Cinema, Hollywood." *Theorizing World Cinema*, London: IB Tauris, 2012, pp. 129–44.
Hamer, Molly. "Not Notorious Enough: The Transnational Feminism of Ang

Lee's Lust, Caution and Its American Reception." *Asian Cinema*, vol. 22, no. 2, 2012, pp. 322–51.

Berry, Chris, and Feiyi Lu. *Island on the Edge: Taiwan New Cinema and After*. Hong Kong University Press, 2005.

Davis, Darrell William. *Cinema Taiwan: Politics, Popularity, and State of the Arts*. Routledge, 2007.

Hong, Gou-Juin. *Taiwan Cinema: A Contested Nation on Screen*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Lim, Song Hwee. 'Taiwan New Cinema: Small Nation with Soft Power'. *The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas*, 2013, pp. 152–69.
