**Course Description:**
This course provides an introduction to Chinese film, focusing on important genres, directors and movements. We will follow two parallel (often times intersecting) threads throughout the course: “politics of film” as well as “poetics of film.” The former explores Chinese film's engaging dialogue with Chinese sociopolitical issues whereas the latter investigates key terms of film theory such as spectatorship, gaze, apparatus theory, authorship and etc. Along the way, you will learn about many central issues informing cultural identity in contemporary China: the political ideology and its enduring legacy; family, gender and sexuality; globalization, migration and transnational formations. You will also learn to view films with a critical eye and to better appreciate film as an art form.

**Required Text:**

**Primary Films:**
*Hero* (2002), Zhang Yimou
Raise the Red Lantern (1991), Zhang Yimou

Yellow Earth (1985), Chen Kaige

Farewell My Concubine (1993), Chen Kaige

In the Heat of the Sun (1994), Jiang Wen

Shower (1999), Zhang Yang

Beijing Bicycle (2001), Wang Xiaoshuai

Suzhou River (2000), Lou Ye

Blind Shaft (2003), Li Yang

Comrades, Almost a Love Story (1996), Peter Chan

Mountains May Depart (2016), Jia Zhangke

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Develop your basic knowledge of the following areas: film aesthetics, Chinese film history, and Chinese cultural history.
- Develop a vocabulary to articulate interpretive arguments in writing and discussion.
- Refine your understanding of the relationship between film art and social/cultural context.
- Become a more engaged, critical spectator of film.

**Grade Distribution:**

Weekly Posts on Reading: 15%
Weekly Posts on Film: 15%
Film Quiz: 10%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Group Presentation: 5%
Individual Project Presentation: 5%
Final paper: 25%