

PAAS 358: Screening the Nation: Nationalism, Ideology, and Politics in Chinese Cinema

Instructor: Angie Chau



(Photo of movie poster for *The Mermaid*)

Course description:

This course uses the medium of film to explore how ideas about the nation have developed from the mid-20th century to the present day in mainland China. We will study both how key historical events such as the 1950s Land Reform Movement, the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) and the June 4th Incident (1989) shaped Chinese filmmaking, as well as how these historical events are depicted in film circulated to domestic and global audiences. We seek to address the following questions: what is the relationship between political ideology and art in the modern Chinese context? How has the image of the Chinese nation evolved from the socialist period to the 21st century, and what is film's contribution to this image? How are nationalism, politics, and ideology closely tied to issues of gender, ethnicity, language? We will watch a selection of films from directors including Xie Jin, Zhang Yimou, Jia Zhangke, and Stephen Chow.

Proposed assignments:

Attendance, Participation	10%
Film commentaries (3)	15%
Tentative outline and script	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final film group project	40%

Proposed reading list:

<i>Two Stage Sisters</i>
