Sixth College: Culture, Art, and Technology 3 - - China Today: New Media in Conflict
Professor Paul G. Pickowicz
University of California, San Diego
Spring Quarter 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:20
Classroom: 104 Solis Hall
Office Hours: Mondays, 1-3, Perks Coffee Shop (University Bookstore)

**Required Reading:**


Paul G. Pickowicz and Yingjin Zhang, eds., *From Underground to Independent: Alternative Film Culture in Contemporary China* (Lanham: Roman and Littlefield, 2006).

**Required Websites for Daily Monitoring:**


*China Digital Times:*  [www.chinadigitaltimes.net](http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net)


**Optional Websites:**

[edge.neocha.com/category/music/rock-music/](http://edge.neocha.com/category/music/rock-music/)

[www.chinahush.com](http://www.chinahush.com)

[www.chinasmack.com](http://www.chinasmack.com)

**Catalog of Chinese Underground and Independent Films Contained in the UCSD Library:**

Go to:  roger.ucsd.edu
Then search:  East Asian Film Collection.Underground Films/Independent Films

This will produce a list of 756 Chinese Underground and Independent Films available in the library
Schedule of Classes:

**Week 1:**
March 29  
Film: “The Mao Years, Part I”

March 31  
Film: “The Mao Years, Part II”
Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 1.
Sang Ye, pp. ix-9.

**Week 2:**
April 5  
Identities 1: “Readymade” (Zhang Bingjian, 2008)
Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 2.
San Ye, Chaps. 1-2

April 7  
Identities 2: “Women 50 Minutes” (Shi Tou, 2007)
Reading: Sang Ye, Chap. 3

**Week 3:**
April 12  
Identities 3: “Starkers” (Gu Tao, 2007) and “Senior High” (Zhou Hao, 2005)
Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 3.
Sang Ye, Chap. 4

*April 12  
SPECIAL EVENING SCREENING: “Winter Story” (Zhu Chuanming, 2008)
104 Solis, 7-9 p.m. (required event)

April 14  
Identities 4: “Queer as Folk” (Xiaogang and Steven, 2007) and “Bamboo Forest” (Yang Fudong, 2007)
Reading: Sang Ye, Chaps. 5-6.

*Rough Draft of First Paper Due in Thursday, April 14 Sections for In-Class Workshop

**Week 4:**
April 19  
The Universal Local 1: “Last Train Home” (Fan Lixin, 2009)

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS (5 PAGES; 10 POINTS). SUBJECT WILL BE “IDENTITIES.”

April 21  
The Universal Local 2: “These Dogs” (Zhang Zhanqing, 2006)
Reading: Sang Ye, Chap. 7
**Week 5:**
April 26  The Universal Local 3: “For Every Minute I Live” (Zhang Zhanqing, 2006)
    Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 4
    San Ye, Chap. 8

*April 26  SPECIAL EVENING SCREENING: “Crying Woman” (Liu Bingjian, 2002)
    104 Solis, 7-9 p.m. (required event)

April 28  The Universal Local 4: “The Box” (Ying Weiwei, 2001)
    Reading: Wei Hui, *Shanghai Baby*

**Week 6:**
May 3  Mid-term Exam (20 POINTS)
    Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 5
    Sang Ye, Chaps. 9-10.

May 5  Alienation/Protest 1: “Care and Love” (Ai Xiaoming, 2007)
    Reading: Sang Ye, Chap. 11

**Week 7:**
May 10  Alienation/Protest 2: “The Nail” (Jiang Zhi, 2007)
    Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 6
    Sang Ye, Chap. 12

May 12  Alienation/Protest 3: “Little Moth” (Peng Tao, 2008)
    Reading: Sang Ye, Chaps. 13-14

*May 12  SPECIAL EVENING SCREENING: “Who Killed Our Children?”
    (Pan Jianlin and Zhang Lei, 2008)
    104 Solis, 7-9 p.m. (required event)

**Week 8:**
    Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 7
    Sang Ye, Chap. 15-16

May 19  Recovering Lost Histories 1: “Blue Kite” (Tian Zhuangzhuang, 1993)
    Reading: Sang Ye, Chap. 17-18

*Rough Draft of Second Paper Due in Thursday, May 19, Sections.*
**Week 9:**

May 24  Recovering Lost Histories 2: “Red Snow” (Peng Tao, 2006)
Reading: Pickowicz and Zhang, Chapter 8
Sang Ye, Chap. 10-20

May 26  Recovering Lost Histories 3: “A Day to Remember” (Liu Wei, 2005) and “Born Under the Red Flag, Part II”
Reading: Sang Ye, Chaps. 21-22

*May 26  SPECIAL EVENING SCREENING: “Summer Palace” (Luo Ye, 2007)
104 Solis, 7-9 p.m. (required event)*

**Week 10:**

May 31  Recovering Lost Histories 4: “How the Steel Was Tempered” (Lu Xuezhang, 1997)
Reading: Sang Ye, Chaps. 23-25.

June 2  Conclusion
Reading: Sang Ye, Chap. 26.
Su Tong, *Rice.*
SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS (10 PAGES; 30 POINTS). SUBJECT WILL BE “UNIVERSAL LOCAL,” “ALIENATION/PROTEST,” OR “RECOVERING LOST HISTORIES.”

**June 7, 3-6 p.m.**  **Final exam: written exam (20 POINTS)**

Grading:
Pop quiz 1 5 points
Midterm exam 20 points
Paper 1 10 points
Pop quiz 2 5 points
Paper 2 30 points
Final exam 20 points
Section attendance/participation 10 points

100 points
All students will assemble and submit two portfolios.

**Portfolio 1** will contain 8 items selected from *China Digital Times, The New York Times,* and *China Daily* from March 29 to April 18, 2011. The topic of the portfolio (and the paper) will be “Identities.” Number the items in the portfolio according to their degree of importance in your opinion, 1 being the most important, 8 being the least important. The portfolio will be submitted along with paper 1.

**Paper 1** will be based on the items in the portfolio, required course reading, required course film material, and library film material (every paper must cite at least two films contained in the library collection). Paper 1 will be 5 pages of prose. The notes that cite your sources will come as “endnotes” after page 5. It would be perfectly acceptable if the paper focused, for instance, on one or two examples of film material you have seen. In your opinion, what do the film materials tell us about “searches for identity” in present-day China? If you compare film materials, you will need to decide whether the films under review agree or disagree with each other on the subject of “identities.” You will also want to ask whether the news items in your portfolio and the required readings support what you are saying about the film material (whether it is one film or multiple films) or take the discussion of “identities” in different directions. Are you noticing any interpretive or analytical patterns that link the film material to the news items and the required readings? We want to know what you learned that you did not know before.

**Portfolio 2** will contain 24 items selected from *China Digital Times, The New York Times,* and *China Daily* from April 19 to June 1. The topic of the portfolio can be “The Universal Local,” “Alienation/Protest,” or “Recovering Local Histories.” Number the items according to their degree of importance in your opinion, 1 being the most important, 24 being the least important. The portfolio will be submitted along with paper 2.

**Paper 2** will be based on the items in the portfolio, required course readings, required course film material, and library film material (every paper must cite at least three films contained in the library collection). Paper 2 will be 10 pages of prose. The notes that cite your sources will come as “endnotes” after page 10. It would be perfectly acceptable if the paper focused on a couple or a few examples of film material you have seen. In your opinion, what do the film materials tell us about the three possible subjects under review: “The Universal Local,” “Alienation/Protest,” and “Recovering Lost Histories”? When comparing film materials on your topic, you will need to decide whether the films under review agree or disagree with each other when it comes to your subject. Do the film materials say the same basic thing or do they say different kinds of things? You will want to ask whether the news items in your portfolio and the required readings support what you are saying about the film material (whether it is one film or multiple films) or take the discussion of your topic in new directions. Are you noticing any interpretive or analytical patterns that link the film material to the news items and the required readings? We want to know what you learned that you did not know before.
It will not be possible to make up missed film screenings. Film material will be shown only once. No make ups on quizzes and the midterm exam except for physician documented emergencies.

**Showing Respect:**

1. The instructor and TAs will show respect for all students and treat all students in a professional way.

2. Students are expected to show respect for the instructor and TAs in the following ways:
   - *Please do not arrive late to class (better not to come at all).*
   - *Please do not leave class early (better not to come at all).*
   - *Please do not engage in private conversation or read in class.*
   - *Please do not pack up things and prepare for departure until the class has ended.*
   - **PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES DO NOT RING DURING CLASS**
     (2 point penalty for first offense, 5 point penalty for second offense, 15 point penalty for third offense).
   - *Please do not go online or engage in text messaging, etc. during class.*

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS POLICY**

All assignments must be submitted in writing by the day and time specified in the Syllabus, above. Additionally, all assignments must also be submitted digitally via turnitin.com by midnight of the day in which they are due.

All graded writing must be submitted to Turnitin.com to receive credit. Late submissions will be penalized. If an assignment is not time stamped in turnitin.com by midnight on the date it is due, it will be reduced by one full grade (i.e.: An A would be lowered to a B). Papers not submitted to turnitin.com by the time of the final exam will be lowered two full grades (i.e.: An A would be lowered to a C). If you have an emergency and you discuss it with your TA before the deadline, it may be possible to make arrangements but this is not guaranteed.

By university policy, the final exam will not be accepted late. You must submit all assigned work to pass the course.

**STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students with physical or learning disabilities must work with UCSD’s Office for Students with Disabilities to obtain current documentation then contact instructor and TA’s to arrange appropriate academic accommodations. For pre-existing needs this should be accomplished in the first two weeks of the quarter; for emerging needs do it as soon in the quarter as possible. To be fair to all students, no individual accommodations will be made unless the student first presents the proper documentation.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND COURSE PARTICIPATION
Electronic devices, including laptops and cell phones, may only be used in class to the extent and for the purposes permitted by the course instructor. Please be aware that even when their use in lecture or discussion section is permitted, using these devices in ways that are distracting to other people in the room, irrelevant to the class, or counterproductive to learning is not acceptable.

PARTICIPATION GRADES
Here is a description of the kind of participation in the course that would earn you an A, B, C, etc. Your TA may use pluses and minuses to reflect your participation more exactly, but on this sheet we will simply show a general description for each letter grade.

A – EXCELLENT.
- You are always well prepared for discussion in lecture and for section, with almost no absences. You can explain each reading in your own words. In addition, you have already asked yourself questions about what it means, focusing on specific passages that are interesting to you and making connections between various readings and ideas.
- You express your thoughts clearly and politely, making and supporting specific claims. You respond to what other students are saying in order to have a dialogue with them.
- You find ways to connect the course material with issues that matter to you personally.
- You do all section activities with high energy and attention to detail, taking personal responsibility for achieving the assigned goal.

B – GOOD.
- You attend lecture and section with few absences. You have done most of the preparation. If you don’t understand the reading the first time you read it, you wait to have it explained by the TA.
- You talk on a regular basis. Sometimes you offer well-thought-out ideas and connections, supported with evidence; sometimes your contributions are merely a statement of opinions or initial reactions.
- You do assigned activities willingly; but if you run into obstacles, you let the TA or someone else figure out how to overcome those obstacles.

C – SATISFACTORY.
- You are present in lecture and section, with few absences, and have done some reading some of the time.
- You occasionally contribute to the discussion; your contributions are more often opinions than thoughtful
Efforts to make connections. You’re not a real self-starter, and you have to be nudged to participate.

You do activities when asked, because it’s required.

D – UNSATISFACTORY.

You have multiple absences from section.

When you come, you’re often not very prepared, and you don’t say much.

You may have a habit of using your cell phone or computer in class to chat or do things not directly related to the course. Playing online poker or shopping for surfboards in either lecture or section, for instance, would be ways to earn a “D” (or lower) in participation.

F—FAILING.

You have many absences, are habitually unprepared, or are uncooperative.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to uphold the standards of academic integrity in all your work. All work that you submit for credit in CAT is expected to be your own original work, created specifically for this class. Where you are making appropriate use of the work of another person, which may include brief quotations, photographs or drawings, charts, special information, specific arguments, etc., you must credit the author of that work by using appropriate and complete citations. If you choose to include in your CAT assignments any data, information, argument or artwork that you have produced for another course, you should identify it as such with an appropriate self-citation, and it should in no way constitute the bulk of the assignment that you are submitting for credit in CAT.

UCSD has a university-wide Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, which can be found online at http://wwwsenate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm. All students must read and be familiar with this Policy. All suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to UCSD’s Academic Integrity Coordinator. Students found to have violated UCSD’s standards for academic integrity may receive both administrative and academic sanctions. Administrative sanctions may extend up to and include suspension or dismissal, and academic sanctions may include failure of the assignment or failure of the course.

Specific examples of prohibited violations of academic integrity include the following: (although this should in no way be considered an exhaustive list of examples):

Academic stealing refers to the theft of exams or exam answers, of papers or take-home exams composed by others, and of research notes, computer files, or data collected by others.

Academic cheating, collusion, and fraud refer to having others do your schoolwork or helping or allowing them to present your work as their own; using unauthorized materials during exams; inventing data or bibliography to
support a paper, project, or exam; purchasing tests, answers, or papers from any source whatsoever; submitting (nearly) identical papers to two classes. Helping other students to cheat or steal is also cheating.  

*Misrepresenting personal or family emergencies or health problems in order to extend deadlines and alter due dates or requirements* is another form of academic fraud. Claiming you have been ill when you were not, claiming that a family member has been ill or has died when that is untrue are some examples of unacceptable ways of trying to gain more time than your fellow students have been allowed in which to complete assigned work.  

Please do not ask or allow friends or family members to write or substantially edit your work. That is both a violation of academic integrity and a short-circuiting of the learning process.  

*Plagiarism* refers to the use of another’s work without full acknowledgment, whether by suppressing the reference, neglecting to identify direct quotations, paraphrasing closely or at length without citing sources, spuriously identifying quotations or data, or cutting and pasting the work of several (usually unidentified) authors into a single undifferentiated whole.

**Receipt of this syllabus constitutes an acknowledgment that you are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.**