

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Environment in Chinese film and literature

Course Number and Section:

CHINESE

2248F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Yuanfang Zhang

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the literary theory of ecocriticism and explores the representation of nature and environment in Chinese literature and film in the contemporary era of industrialization, modernization, and urbanization. The course focuses particularly on the relationship that various Chinese communities have with the natural world and the influence of politics, ethnicity, gender, and class on such relationships. The course is taught in Chinese.

Learning Outcomes:

- Outline the major developments in ecocriticism in Chinese literary and cultural studies;
- Identify some important writers, and film directors, and their works that explore environmental issues and raise public awareness about eco problems in China;
- Understand social, political, and economic factors that influence the environment through the lens of literary and visual representation;
- Develop analytical skills and critical thinking abilities in studying Chinese literature and film from the perspective of ecocriticism

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Readings and films will be provided on the brightspace course website.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and Active Participation	12/08/2025	15
Proposal	11/12/2025	10
Midterm Test	10/27/2025	35
In-class written-up		20

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
term paper	12/09/2025	20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 11, 2025