



CHN2271G – Chinese Images in Disney Films Intersession 2025

1.0 BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number: CHN2271G

Course Name: Chinese Images in Disney Films

Instructor Name: Dr. Lucy He

E-mail address: lhe26@uwo.ca

Scheduled class times: June 2 -19, Mon-Thurs

Office Hours: By appointment

2.0 COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the representation of Chinese culture, characters, and themes in the animated, documentary and live-action films produced or distributed by Walt Disney Pictures. Students will examine how these portrayals have evolved over time, reflecting changing social attitudes and Disney's expanding international market. The course will analyze specific films, their production contexts, and reception both in China and globally. Taught in Chinese.

3.0 COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to enable students to:

- Identify and analyze Chinese representations in Disney films;
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts influencing these representations;
- Evaluate the cultural authenticity and accuracy of Chinese portrayals in Disney productions;
- Discuss the impact of these images on audiences' perceptions of Chinese culture;
- Enhance skills in oral and written presentations and improve research capabilities.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

The learning activities include film screening as well as analysis and discussion of the film(s). Regular participation and active contribution to class discussion are essential and expected.

5.0 TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED RESOURCES

Weekly readings are available to student on course website.

Additional readings:

- Arthur Dong, *Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films* (Los Angeles: Angel City Press, 2019).

- Elizabeth Bell, Lynda Haas and Laura Sells, eds., *From Mouse to Mermaid: The Politics of Film, Gender, and Culture* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995).
- Ming Dong Gu and Rainer Schulte, eds., *Translating China for Western Readers: Reflective, Critical, and Practical Essays* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2014)

6.0 METHOD OF EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

- Participation 20%
 - Written test 20%
 - Group project 30%
 - Final paper 30%
- (1) Participation (20%). Students are required to read all assigned materials before each class. Regular attendance and active contribution to class discussion and online discussion board on OWL are essential. Participation marks depend on the sufficiency of the student's preparation and the quality of contribution, as determined by the instructor.
 - (2) Written test (20%). A critical analysis of the film clips shown in the course (limit of 2,000 words).
 - (3) Group project (30%). 4-6 students per group. Conduct research, explore various themes, genres, discuss the cultural, historical, or social implications of the chosen topic, and present findings in an engaging and informative manner.
 - (4) Final paper (30%). Analyze one screenplay or film covered by the course. With instructor approval, you may choose a screenplay or film not included in the course material. The paper should be approximately 3,000 words.

6.5 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All assignments should be submitted to course website on OWL. Specific guidelines and rubrics for each assignment will be posted on the course website on OWL.
- Late submission will be penalized 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) to a total of seven days after which they will not be accepted. Request for academic accommodation will only be considered in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances.
- Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students are required to submit their work in electronic form.
- No make-ups will be given on the test, except in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances.

7.0 SCHEDULE

June 2: Introduction to Disney and Chinese Cultural Representation

- Disney's global influence and cultural adaptation
- Chinese cultural representation in film and media

June 3-4: Traditional and Modern Representations of Chinese Culture: History and Gender Representation

- 木兰 *Mulan* (1998)
- 木兰 *Mulan* (2020)

June 5: Chinese and Southeast Asian Cultural Fusion

- 寻龙传说 *Raya and the Last Dragon* (2021)

June 9: Nature Documentary in Chinese Context

- 我们诞生在中国 *Born in China* (2016)
- 山之幽灵 *Ghost of the Mountains* (2017)

June 10: Chinese-American Themes: Cultural Identity

- 西游ABC *American Born Chinese* (2023)

June 11: Contemporary Chinese Representation: Portrayal of Chinese superheroes

- 尚气与十环传奇 *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* (2021)

June 12 **Test (20%)**

June 16: East Meets West: Modern Myths and Ancient Morals

- 许愿神龙 *Wish Dragon* (2021)

June 17: Between Tradition and Independence: Cultural Identity and Expectations

- 青春变形记 *Turning Red* (2022)

June 18: Grief, Growth, and Resilience: Family, Loss, and the Road to Self-Discovery

- 飞奔去月球 *Over the Moon* (2020)

June 19: The Intersection of Tradition and Change: Chinese Heritage and Family Bonds

- 包宝宝 *Bao* (2018)

Final paper due (30%)