

ENGL 3358

Hong Kong Cinema

Bruce Lee. Jackie Chan. John Woo. Chow Yun-fat. These names spring to mind when we think of Hong Kong film, but how much more to the distinct national cinema exists beyond these figures famed from martial arts-inspired action? This course in film studies surveys one of the most locally successful and internationally influential film traditions outside of Hollywood. By looking at Hong Kong movies from the 1980s and 1990s—the era of renown for most of the preceding stars—as well as films from before that time and after, we will explore the distinguishing aspects of this fascinating non-western film style. What generic, stylistic, and thematic elements characterize Hong Kong cinema, and what do they suggest about the local culture in which these films were made and viewed? How do these attributes compare with other western and non-western film styles, and what forms of Hong Kong cinema have been most popular abroad? To what extent does Hong Kong cinema reflect the idiosyncrasies of the territory's social and political situation, and how much is it a product of global film traditions in which all movies inevitably also partake?

Requirements: pop quizzes, midterm and final. All screenings are to be completed independently and outside of the classroom.

Films are subtitled and all readings are in English.

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:30

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