Remembering the Chinese Revolution through Film

From the 1911 Xinhai revolution to the 1966 Cultural Revolution, the 20th century saw waves of revolutions shape the history of modern China. This course examines how Chinese films produced in the diverse socio-economic contexts of the Maoist (1949-1978) and Reform (1978-present) eras represent this century of revolution. Students will gain a broad understanding of modern China's revolutionary and post-revolutionary history, familiarize themselves with film analysis techniques and post-1949 Chinese cinema, and, ultimately, learn to understand film as the most powerful modern art form for constructing historical memories.

Course taught in Chinese. Most films are with English subtitles, some with Chinese subtitles. Films we will watch and discuss range from the recent transnational production Lust, Caution (2007) to the Chinese revolutionary classic film The White-Haired Girl (1950). Requirements for the course include group presentations, film analysis assignments, and one final paper.