Meeting Time/Place: Monday and Wednesday, Humanities 109, 5:45-8:35 PM
Instructor: Jim Hargett, Hum. 254C, 442-4233
E-mail: James.Hargett@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-2:45 PM or by appointment.

Course Description and Introduction
This is introductory film class on East Asian cinema, this semester focusing on documentary films concerning modern and contemporary China. The main goal of the class is to help you understand some of the key issues that China and the Chinese people face in the country’s current transition to a world superpower. We will accomplish these goals by (1) viewing several representative documentary films; (2) attending class lectures and participating in class discussions.

What Will You Learn in This Course?
In many ways, cinematic texts are mirrors. That is to say, in addition to providing entertainment, films also reflect social, political, cultural, and economic issues and concerns. In this course you will be taught how to identify, decode, and understand these issues as they appear in the films considered this semester.

Class Organization
The class will meet twice weekly. Typically, during the first session (Monday) we will view a film. The second class (Wednesday) will be devoted to discussing and decoding the film, with attention paid to major (and recurrent) themes and images. Background details (historical, cultural, and so on) will be provided by the instructor as needed. With the exception of the documentary China Blue, copies of the films viewed in the course will not be available on reserve in the library or from the instructor, so attendance is essential.

Prerequisites: None. This is a survey course open to anyone. No previous knowledge of China or East Asia is required.

Required textbook: None. There is no textbook for this class.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by (1) your attendance, your preparation, and your contributions to class discussions (33.3%); (2) your grade on the mid-term exam (33.3%); and (3) your grade on the final exam (33.3%).

Attendance and Makeups: Students are expected to attend all classes. Makeups for missed work will be given only if the absence was due to a documented medical or personal emergency. If possible, consult with the instructor before the absence.

Academic Integrity: The discovery of any cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any
kind) will result in (1) immediate expulsion from the course with a failing grade; and (2) a report to appropriate SUNY officials. Appeals may be made through appropriate channels.

**Food, Drink, and Cell Phones**: Please do not bring any food or drinks to our class meetings. Also, please turn off your cell phone during class.

**How to do well in this course**: (1) complete all assignments on time; (2) view the films carefully (Take notes! You may want to bring a small flashlight to class to facilitate note taking); (3) attend class regularly (again, take detailed notes!); (4) do not come to class late (the teacher really, really dislikes late arrivals because they disrupt the class); (5) actively participate in classroom discussions (this means raise your hand and say something intelligent!)

**M 22 Oct**: Lecture and discussion: China and Its Construction of Islands in the South China Sea (for tonight’s class we will look at several video clips concerning China’s island-building efforts in the South China Sea.

**W 24 Oct**: Tonight we will watch and discuss a video on YouTube, which is a discussion and debate on the question: “Can China Rise Peacefully?” The main speakers are Professor John Meirsheimer (JM), University of Chicago, and Professor Yan Xueting (YXT) (Yán Xuétōng阎学通), Tsinghua University, Beijing. Here is the link for the video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBrA2TDcNto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBrA2TDcNto)

**M 29 Oct**: BBC Documentary: *How China Fooled the World*
Here is the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwiEKVrZFWc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwiEKVrZFWc)

**W 31 Oct**: Discussion of the “Can China Rise Peacefully?” debate.

**M 5 Nov**: *China Blue (2005)*  
University Library Media / DVD [at Circulation Desk first floor]: HD 6073 C62 D45V 2006

**W 7 Nov**: Discussion of *China Blue*

**M 19 Nov**: **Midterm Exam**

**W 21 Nov**: No class. Thanksgiving.

**M 26 Nov**: *Last Train Home* (归来列车) (2009)

**W 28 Nov**: Discussion of *Last Train Home*

**M 3 Dec**: *Up the Yangtze* (2007)

**W 5 Dec**: Discussion of *Up the Yangtze Up*

**M 10 Dec**: How is the trade war between China and the U.S. going?

**Final Exam**: **Monday 17 Dec., 5:45pm-7:45pm, Humanities 109**