

**History of Public Health in East Asia Through Films and Documentaries 140.176 (01)**

Spring 2021, Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm

1 credit letter grade, Asynchronous screenings online followed by synchronous discussion

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Zoom invite link: <https://zoom.us/j/92630775086?pwd=VIVGU3JxeFYzMU5tUnpQZGNaWExiUT09>

Passcode is course #: 140176

Virtual Zoom lunch hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:00 am or by appointment

My Personal Zoom Room: <https://zoom.us/j/4347057096>

This course uses film and documentaries to explore the history and contemporary landscape of public health in East Asia. Public health is a richly diverse field that reaches many areas of daily life, affects a wide range of people, and has become part of our collective imagination through a wide range of cultural media. Plague movies are so numerous now they've become a sub-genre of horror. Consider movies based on the premise of highly infectious contagions (*Outbreak* 1995; *28 Days Later* 2002) or monster-producing environmental pollution (Japanese *Godzilla* franchise, South Korean *The Host* 2006) or even movies that use zombies to think through fears of human extinction (*World War Z: An oral history of the Zombie War*, 2006 and the series *Game of Thrones*, 2011-2019). Some major thrillers in the US even place the epidemic's epicenter in East Asia (*Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America* 2006; *Contagion* 2011) suggesting US nationalist fears of the other within an increasingly connected global economy.

Some movies produced within the East Asian region also use the sub-genre of epidemic-themed thrillers to comment on broader nationalist fears (South Korean *Flu* 2013; Chinese *Fall of the Ming* 2013). Other films and documentaries in the region do different kind of cultural work. Several films and documentaries, for instance, are speaking truth to power by exposing their governments' roles in exacerbating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, turning a blind eye to industrial pollution, or failing to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable in society. Yet other ones find ways to portray the humanity and agency of society's most vulnerable and stigmatized populations. The films and documentaries selected for screening in this course represent some of the best work coming out of mainland China, Japan, and Korea on issues related to public health and medicine in the region. They are organized into the following five themes:

- Module 1 Pandemics (SARS & the Avian Flu) and Parasites as lens for other ends
- Module 2 Medicine in historical dramas and films on contemporary problems
- Module 3 Socially-engaged photography and documentaries in China
- Module 4 Vulnerable and stigmatized populations
- Module 5 Environmental pollution and political activism
- Module 6 HIV/AIDS in modern China
- Module 7 Comparing Healthcare systems & covering the Wuhan Covid-19 outbreak

They span a wide variety of topics in East Asia, including the state's role in responding to epidemics, failures in medical governance, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, documentary as witness to industrial pollution, environmental activism, and health-care & labor rights, care for the most vulnerable and the human costs of stigmatization, and comparing healthcare systems. Film directors and documentary makers in East Asia are using their artistic work to address much larger public health problems in the region as forms of cultural intervention to change state policy as well as transform individuals' lives. In the process, they make more visible the history

and contemporary realities of public health in East Asia and contribute to the history of global public health.

**Course Objective:** The goal of this course is to bring these and other works on public health and medicine in East Asian film culture to a broader audience by either 1) contributing to or making a case for creating a new Wikipedia entries on relevant East Asian films and documentaries or 2) submitting a proposal for screening notes for a movie not yet included on the new online website “Chinese Film and Cross-cultural Medical Humanities”: <https://www.yimovi.com/en>

Date	Week	Discussion Theme	Film or Documentary Title	Topic
<b>Module 1 Pandemics &amp; Parasites as Lens for other Ends</b>				
1-28-21 Thurs	1	Introduction to Film analysis & reviews	Will show clips from the Chinese Film and the Cross-cultural medical humanities bilingual website: <a href="https://www.yimovi.com/en">https://www.yimovi.com/en</a>	How to review film & documentaries on Wikipedia and other websites, such as Yimovi.com
<b>2-3-21, 11:59pm Publish your self-introduction SP page and submit the SP url to Blackboard for credit. If you chose to review a film in Module 1, submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59 on last day of Module 1</b>				
2-4-21 Thurs	2	Pandemics as lens and Parasite as metaphor on fear of the other, societal and political fissures, unequal power relations, etc	1. <i>Contagion</i> 2011 Steven Soderberg 106 mins 2. <i>Flu</i> 2013 Kim Sung-soo, 122 mins 3. <i>Parasite</i> , 2019 Bong Joon-ho, 132 mins	1. New pandemic spreads out from Hong Kong to the US. 2. A new strain of H5NI Influenza epidemic spreads across South Korea 3. Comedy-thriller examines parasitism as metaphor from geo-political to socio-economic hierarchies of inequality
<b>Module 2 Medicine in films on contemporary problems in China &amp; Japan Submit your SP page by 4 pm on the day we discuss the film; submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm on last day of Module 2</b>				
2-11-21 Thurs	3	Historical dramas critique China's response to SARS & Japan's rural healthcare system	1. <i>Fall of the Ming (Dà míng jié 大明劫)</i> , 2013) Wang Jing 王競, 114 mins 2. <i>Red Beard (Akahige 赤ひげ)</i> , 1965), 185 mins Akira Kurasawa, 185 mins	1. The 1640s epidemics in context of war require a general and physician to join forces, but still there is a cover-up... 2. Older village doctor conflicts with younger western-trained doctor in a late 19 <sup>th</sup> -century Japanese village clinic
2-18-21 Thurs	4	Akira Kurosawa deals with TB & alcoholism, pollution & cancer in post-WWII Japan	1. <i>Drunken Angel (Yoidore Tenshi 酔いどれ天使)</i> , 1948), 98 mins 2. <i>To Live (Ikiru 生きる)</i> , 1952), 143 mins	1. Alcoholic doctor treats small-time crook with TB and other problems 2. Bureaucrat tries to find meaning in life after being diagnosed with cancer and transforms a polluted area into a park
<b>Module 3 Social-realist photographers and documentary makers in China If you wrote an SP Page on one of the Module 3 documentaries, submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Submit your idea/s about a film or documentary choice for a final project to Blackboard by 2/25 11:59pm.</b>				
2-25-21 Thurs	5	Guest lecturer, Dr Gaochao He “Social engagement of photographers in China”	1. <i>West of the Tracks Collection (Tie Xi Qu)</i> , 2004 2. <i>Zheng Zha: Struggle</i> , 2001, 50 mins 3. <i>China Blue</i> , 2006, 88 mins 4. <i>Bitter Money</i> , 2016, 152 mins 5. <i>We the Workers</i> , 2017, 174 mins	Politics of photography & documentary making in late 20 <sup>th</sup> -century China through social-realist work on labor struggles, occupational accidents, and industrial decline in the early 21 <sup>st</sup> century
<b>Module 4 Vulnerable &amp; Stigmatized Populations in East Asia Submit your SP page by 4 pm on the day we discuss the film; submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm on last day of Module 4</b>				
3-4-21	6	Comedy deals with agency of the elderly in nursing homes and about pharmaceuticals for profits in China	1. <i>Full Circle (Feiyue laoren yuan 飛越老人遠)</i> , 2012) Zhang Yang 张杨, 101 mins 2. <i>Dying to Survive (Wo bushi wenshen 我不是藥神)</i> , 2018), Wen Muye, 117 mins	1. A group of elderly take back control of their lives in a nursing home 2. Cancer patient deals with problem of high cost of life-saving prescription drugs
3-11-21 Thurs	7	Comedy and thrillers on bias toward the mentally challenged in China and Korea	1. <i>Shower</i> 1999, Zhang Yang, 92 mins 2. <i>Mother (Madeo 마더)</i> , 2009) Bong Joon-ho, 128 mins 3. <i>Miracle in Cell No. 7</i> , 2013	1. A family deals with disability and aging in a traditional bathhouse for men 2. Mother attempts to protect her challenged son on charges of murder

			Lee Hwan-kyung, 127 mins	3. Intellectually-challenged father wrongfully imprisoned for murder
3-18-21 Thurs	8	Livelihoods for the marginalized: The blind in modern China & living with leprosy in modern Japan	1. <i>Blind Massage Tüinä</i> , 2014) Lou Ye 娄烨, 117 mins 2. <i>Sweet Bean or Les Délices de Tokyo (An あん</i> , 2015) Naomi Kawase, 113 mins	1. The lives and loves of the blind who work in a therapeutic massage clinic 2. an elderly woman makes sweet red-bean cakes until people learn she lives at the leprosarium
<b>Module 5 Environmental Pollution in China and Japan</b> <b>Submit your SP page by 4 pm on the day we discuss the film; submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm on last day of Module 5</b> <b>Decide on your Final Project and submit 5 references (can include Wikipedia/YiMovi.com etc links) to Blackboard by 4/1</b>				
3-25-21 Thurs	9	Industrial pollution & Radioactive Fallout in Japan	1. <i>Minamata: The Victims and Their World (Minamata: Kanja-san to sono sekai 水俣患者さんとその世界</i> , 1971) Noriaki Tsuchimoto, 167 mins 2. <i>The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom (津波そして桜)</i> , English director Lucy Walker, 41 mins 3. <i>The Souls of Zen, Buddhism, Ancestors and the 2011 Tsunami in Japan</i> , German directors Tim Graf & Jakob Montrasio, 90 mins and 4. At Café de Monk post-2011 Tsunami, Japan 5. <i>Beyond the Cloud (Yonaoshi 3.11</i> , 2013), and <i>A Safe Place</i> 2017, two documentaries by French director Keiko Courdy, 94 mins	1. Mercury poisoning in a rural Japanese fishing village in the 1950s and political activism movement for their rights. And later 2-3. Two documentaries on Japanese responses to the 2011 Tsunami & Fukushima disaster by an English and a German director and related 4. Buddhist monk sets up a Café de Monk for tsunami survivors 5. Is a renewal possible after the Tsunami-Fukushima disaster of 2011? And who is involved in cleaning up toxic environments?
4-1-21 Thurs	10	Chemical, Mining, & air pollution in China	1. <i>The Warriors of Qiugang (Qiugāng wèishì 仇岗卫士</i> , 2010), Ruby Yang, 39 mins 2. <i>Behemoth (Bēixī móshòu 悲兮魔兽</i> , 2015), Zhao Liang, 91 mins 3. <i>Under the Dome</i> , 2015, Chai Jing, 104 mins	1. Environmental activism against chemical plants in China Toxic and 2. Documentary as activism against mining in Inner Mongolia 3. Lecture as activism exposing smog & air pollution in Chinese cities
<b>Module 6 The unique case of the AIDS epidemic in modern China</b> <b>Submit your SP page by 4 pm on the day we discuss the film; submit the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm on last day of Module 6</b>				
4-8-21 Thurs	11	Early Documentaries on the HIV-tainted blood scandal in 1990s China	1. <i>To Live is Better Than to Die</i> , 2003 CHEN Weijun, 88 mins 2. <i>The Blood of Yingzhou District (Yingzhou de haizi 颖州的孩子</i> , 2006) Ruby Yang (楊紫燁), 39 mins 3. <i>The Blood of Yingzhou District Revisited</i> (2013) Ruby Yang, 10 mins	1. The Ma family struggles with consequences of HIV/AIDS infection due to rural blood economy in 60% of population in Wenlou, Central China 2. Documentary on orphaned HIV+ children related to Blood Scandal in Anhui, China with a... 3. 10-year follow-up on orphans
4-15-21	12	State multi-media public health campaign addresses HIV/AIDS stigmatization	1. <i>Together (Zaiyiqi 在一起</i> , 2011) ZHAO Liang 赵亮, 84 mins 2. <i>Love for Life (Zui ai 最爱</i> , 2011) GU Changwei, 105 mins	1. people living with HIV/AIDS in China filmed on the set of feature film... 2. <i>Love for Life</i> , the film adaptation of Yan Lianke's novel <i>Dream of Ding Village</i> .
<b>Module 7 Comparing Healthcare Systems &amp; Covering the Wuhan Outbreak</b> <b>Submit your SP page by 4 pm on April 29 and the SP URL to Blackboard by 11:59pm April 29</b>				
4-22-21 Thurs	13	<b>Spring Break Day</b>	Module 3 theme on social realism with focus on photographs of rural Chinese medical services	Optional Lecture #2 by Professor HE Gaochao
4-29-21 Thurs	14	Documentaries on healthcare systems & on the outbreak in Wuhan	1. <i>Healing and the mind: The Mystery of Qi</i> , 1993 Correspondent Bill Moyers, 58 mins 2. <i>Sick Around the World</i> , 2008, Correspondent T.R. Reid, Frontline Season 26, 56 mins 3. <i>Wellspring</i> , 2002, 49 mins Director SHA Qing (on Yimovi.com) 4. <i>76 Days</i> , 2020, 93 mins Directors WU Hao & CHEN Weixi	1. On traditional medical practices in modern-day China 2. Healthcare in UK, Japan, Germany, Taiwan, Switzerland, and the US. 3. Family cares for their child with cerebral palsy on their own. 4. Physicians respond to the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China
May 3-4 Reading days				

5-11-21 2-5pm	15	<b>FINALE</b>	Student Presentations & Discussion of Final Projects – your chance to showcase the film or documentary you focused on & what you think should be added to improve knowledge about it related to public health and medicine themes for a public audience.	Presentations of either Screening notes for Yimovi.com website or draft of submission for Wikipedia page
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## Student Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Learn how to create a Gallery Display in SharePoint combining text and images
- Critically analyze East Asian film and documentaries through a medical humanities and history of public health lens
- Evaluate how different cultural mediums- film, documentary, and photography – have been used for public-health campaigns, to influence policy-making, and for other social and medical ends
- Contribute 1) to existing or create new Wikipedia entries on East Asian film and documentaries on medicine and public health; or 2) Draft Screening Notes to submit for consideration to the Yimovi.com website on film and Chinese medical humanities

## Readings are listed within the Course folders on Blackboard

### Grading

- Self-Introduction and Attendance – 40%

Because this is a class where you need to be present for discussion, forty percent of each student's grade will be based on SharePoint self-introduction (5%) and attendance on Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm (12x3=35%). You can miss one session without asking permission. Zoom screenshots will be used to take attendance. There is a built-in allowance for absences: write an additional gallery display based on options selected for this course or on the excel sheet of relevant films and documentaries provided in Module 0. Submit this make-up before the end of the course on April 29th to get credit.

- Three gallery displays on SharePoint based on any relevant film or documentary chosen for this course or listed on the excel file of possible films and documentaries 30%
  - Submit SharePoint link to blackboard assignments section
  - Class presentations are alternatives to gallery displays 10% each
    - More than one student can work together on films discussed in class
    - [Google-doc sign-up sheet here](#)
  - Submit slides and notes to blackboard assignments
- Asynchronous constructive comments on other students' gallery displays 10%
  - Comment at least five times on your classmates' gallery displays with suggestions on how they can improve their work, what you liked about they did, what else they should include, and other films related to the one they wrote about, etc.
  - Submit your five best comments on SharePoint pages to the "Module # SharePoint page & comments" item in blackboard assignments
- Final project – 20%
  - 2/25 submit idea/s about film or documentary choice (1%)
  - 4/1 submit 4-5 references related to your final choice (4%)
  - 5/11 Submit the SharePoint link of either 1) Yimovi Screening Notes or 2) update of Wikipedia entry to Blackboard assignments for credit (15%)

For the final project, students can choose one of the following three options. Students can develop further one of their previous SharePoint pages or chose a relevant film or documentary not selected for this course to write on for their final project to introduce to everyone:

1) Using SharePoint, create a gallery display according to the screening-notes structure on the Yimovi.com website. If you have chosen a Chinese film not already included on the website, you should consider your writing as a proposal of screening notes to submit to the website's editors.

- 2) Take an existing Wikipedia entry on an HPHEA-related film, documentary, or director, specify how it could be improved, and write the material that will improve it.
- 3) Make an argument for creating a new Wikipedia entry for a film or documentary you think should be covered and provide a draft to submit to Wikipedia. The draft should include a summary of the film's plot, its cast, background, public health relevance, relevant references, and external links.

**Basic structure for each option:**

**Final Project Option #1: Structure of Screening Notes for Yimovi website:**

Introduction

Context

Synopsis & Relevance

Cinematography

Points for Discussion

Availability

External Links

Selection of clips with captions

- Students who take this option can complete the proposal through SharePoint

**Final Project Option #2 : Structure of Wikipedia Entry on a film:**

Introduction: Film title or titles, director, main actors, when released, and, if the case, adaptation from what novel.

Contents overview

Plot

Cast

Background

Filmography of director

References

External Links

- Students who take this option must read the following resource to learn how to become a Wikipedia editor: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Tutorial>