ADVANCED STUDIES IN FILM
ASIAN CINEMA

- TAN PIN PIN, INVISIBLE CITY (2007)
- MAMORU OSHII, GHOST IN THE SHELL (1995)
- ASGHAR FARHADI, A SEPARATION (2012)
- RAJKUMAR HIRANI, 3 IDIOTS (2009)
- YEON SANG-HO, TRAIN TO BUSAN (2016)
- ZHANG YIMOU, HERO (2002)
- YASMIN AHMAD, MUALLAF (2008)
- WONG KAR-WAI, HAPPY TOGETHER (1997)
- YOUNGYOUTH THONGKONTHUN, THE IRON LADIES (2001)

NOTE: AT PRESENT, HL4014 IS A FULLY ONLINE COURSE.
The 2020 version of HL4014 Advanced Studies in Film is a thematic survey of modern Asian cinema. The issues we will be discussing include the history of film as it developed in particular countries, the specificities of the film medium, and the relationship between genres and content. We will also be looking at themes such as cultural memory, class inequality, nationalism, religion, gender, and sexuality. In addition, there will be a thematic focus on the ethics of film watching.

At present, HL4014 is a FULLY ONLINE course. Please contact the course coordinator if you have concerns.

As we will be studying these films alongside some film theories, prior knowledge will be an advantage but is not a prerequisite. That said, interested students are highly encouraged to take HL3001 Film Theory; other film modules will also be useful.

This course aims to introduce you to a range of challenging films and some general critical tendencies in modern Asian cinema. It also seeks to provide you with a vocabulary to describe the formal effects of cinema. By the end of the semester, you will be conversant with the films studied, with modern Asian cinema as a broad category, and with film as a particular medium with its own history, techniques, and possibilities. This will aid you in developing cultural literacy. In addition, as this is a writing-intensive course, you will also learn to develop coherent critical written arguments about the films studied.

"What makes cinema so attractive, so fascinating is that it’s not just a one plus one process. It’s a chemistry between sounds, words, ideas and image."

— Wong Kar-wai