

# PAAS 358: Screening the Nation: Nationalism, Ideology, and Politics in Chinese Cinema

Instructor: Angie Chau



(Photo of movie poster for *The Mermaid*)

## Course description:

This course uses the medium of film to explore how ideas about the nation have developed from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day in mainland China. We will study both how key historical events such as the 1950s Land Reform Movement, the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) and the June 4<sup>th</sup> Incident (1989) shaped Chinese filmmaking, as well as how these historical events are depicted in film circulated to domestic and global audiences. We seek to address the following questions: what is the relationship between political ideology and art in the modern Chinese context? How has the image of the Chinese nation evolved from the socialist period to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and what is film's contribution to this image? How are nationalism, politics, and ideology closely tied to issues of gender, ethnicity, language? We will watch a selection of films from directors including Xie Jin, Zhang Yimou, Jia Zhangke, and Stephen Chow.

### Proposed assignments:

Attendance, Participation	10%
Film commentaries (3)	15%
Tentative outline and script	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final film group project	40%

### Proposed reading list:

<i>Two Stage Sisters</i> (dir. Xie Jin, 1964)
<i>Yellow Earth</i> . (dir. Chen Kaige, 1984)
<i>In the Heat of the Sun</i> . (dir. Jiang Wen, 1994)
<i>The Mermaid</i> (dir. Stephen Chow, 2016)
<i>Wolf Warrior II</i> (dir. Wu Jing, 2017)
Additional selected readings and films