

Viewing Guide – *The Cinema of Asia*

These suggested films are some that will or may come up for discussion during the first course. If you go to Netflix, you can use hyperlinks to find further suggestions. The year listed is the year of theatrical release in the US. VOD is “Video On Demand.” Note: It is not necessary to see any or all of the films, by any means. These simply serve as a guide for the discussion. You can also use IMDB.com (Internet Movie Database) to search for other works by these filmmakers. You can also keep this list for future viewing after the session, if that is what you prefer. I’ve noted in bold the films that contain scenes that could be too extreme for some viewers. In the “Additional works” lines, those titles are noted by an asterisk.

Bethlehem Director: Yuval Adler. 2013. Israel. 100 minutes. Not Rated.

An informant for Israel's Shin Bet intelligence service, Palestinian Sanfur is torn when his brother becomes an agency target. His tragic choice is complicated by his relationship with Razi, the boss, mentor and father figure who hired him as a teen.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

A Separation Director: Asghar Farhadi. 2011. Iran. 123 minutes. PG-13.

An Iranian husband and wife split up over his decision to stay and care for his aging father instead of leaving the country with his family. But his fateful choice to hire a stranger to do most of the caretaking breeds unexpected consequences.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

The Lunchbox Director: Ritesh Batra. 2013. India. 105 minutes. Rated PG.

When Mumbai's eerily reliable lunchbox delivery service erroneously sends a meal prepared by a young housewife to a lonely widower on the brink of retirement, the mistake ignites an exchange of notes and mutual fantasy between them.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant (purchase only).

Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives

Director: Apichatpong Weerasethakul. 2010. Thailand. 113 minutes. Not Rated.

Under the care of his dedicated sister-in-law, terminally ill Uncle Boonmee spends his final days reminiscing about his past lives with the recently arrived ghost of his dead wife and his long-missing son.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Hero Director: Zhang Yimou. 2002. China. 99 minutes. PG-13.

The Qin king has long been obsessed with conquering China and becoming her first Emperor, which makes him the target of three legendary assassins. Now, a nameless warrior claims to have defeated them all and recounts each confrontation for the king.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

In the Mood for Love Director: Wong Kar Wai. 2001. Hong Kong. PG.

In 1962 Hong Kong, neighboring married apartment-dwellers Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan discover that their spouses are having an affair. The two spend time together and find they have much in common, but vow never to behave like their unfaithful mates.

Available on Netflix DVD.

Yi Yi (A One and a Two) Director: Edward Yang. 2000. Taiwan. 173 minutes. Not Rated.

This warm and thoughtful drama focuses on computer worker N.J. and his family who are suffering a crisis of self-doubt when, following a chance meeting with a former lover, N.J. starts to question the assumptions on which his life is based.

Available on Netflix DVD .

Three Times Director: Hou Hsiao-hsien. Taiwan. 2005. 130 minutes. Not Rated.

Love is the central theme in this collection of three stories set in different years -- 1911, 1966 and 2005. In the first tale, a man leaves his true love to serve in the army. When he returns, he finds that his girlfriend has disappeared, so he sets out to find her. A man develops an unlikely bond with two women in the second tale; and four Taipei teens relieve their angst with technology and sex in the last story.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Director: Ang Lee. Taiwan. 2000. 120 minutes. PG-13.

A young woman in ancient China longs for an adventurous life rather than a dull arranged marriage in Ang Lee's Oscar-winning martial arts epic.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Spirited Away Director: Hayao Miyazaki. Japan. 2001. 125 minutes. PG.

After her family moves to the suburbs, Chihiro wanders into a magical world where a witch rules -- and those who disobey her are turned into animals. When Chihiro's parents become pigs, she must find a way to help them return to their human form.

Available on Netflix DVD.

Like Father, Like Son Director: Hirokazu Kore'eda. Japan. 2013. 120 minutes. Not Rated.

When successful businessman Ryota Nonomiya learns that his 6-year-old son was switched at birth with another child, he and his wife must decide whether to seek out their biological son or choose the boy they've been raising.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.