

COURSE SYLLABUS

Name of the Instructor: David Uher

Type of Class Arrangement: 1

Course Description: The aim of this seminar course is to introduce its trainees into the issue of viewing the East (Orient) through the eyes of the West (Occident), i.e. Orientalism. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of this concept and the unacceptable stereotypes that persist in this view. Because of the spatial and time dimensions of the concept “Orient”, the course focuses on the cultural area of the Far East (especially China and Japan) affected by the concept of Orientalism in American movies. The introduction to the key far-eastern cultural concepts (e.g. ideographic writing, Buddhism, Taoism, Asian values, etc.) is an essential part of the course. Active participation in class discussion is expected. The main output of the course is an essay.

Topics

- 1) Orient: a cultural foundation
- 2) Orientalism: a science about Orient?
- 3) Sinology: a science about China!
- 4) Orientalism: a theoretical introduction
- 5) E. W. Said - the “Father” of Orientalism
- 6) Example 1: Orientalism in the *Star Wars* IV-VI (1977–1983)
- 7) Example 2: teachers orientalised in the science fiction movies
- 8) Example 3: translations of the Chinese movies titles into Czech
- 9) Example 4: Orientalism and the **Queen**
- 10) Notes on Essay: topics suggestions
- 11) Ornamental Orientalism 1: *The Fifth Element* (1997)
- 12) Ornamental Orientalism 2: *Blade Runner* (1982)
- 13) Classical (Romantic) Orientalism 1: *55 days in Beijing* (1963)
- 14) Classical Orientalism 2: *Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom* (1984)
- 15) Classical Orientalism 3: *Mulan* (1998)
- 16) Classical Orientalism 4: *Anna and the King* (1999)
- 17) Notes on Essay: topics presentations
- 18) Positive Orientalism 1: *The Last Emperor* (1987)
- 19) Positive Orientalism 2: *Little Buddha* (1993)
- 20) Positive Orientalism 3: *The Last Samurai* (2003)
- 21) Negative Orientalism 4: *Empire of the Sun* (1987)
- 22) “Spaghetti” Orientalism 1: *Red Sun* (1971)
- 23) “Spaghetti” Orientalism 2: *Wasabi* (2001)
- 24) Notes on Essay: form and content
- 25) Applications: *Matrix* (1999)
- 26) Occidentalism: a view from the other side?
- 27) Example 5: translations of the American movies titles into Chinese
- 28) Concluding remarks on the essay

Teaching Methods: seminar (demonstrating, collaborating, occasionally lecturing)

Assessment: essay

Recommended Readings

- BURUMA, Ian and Avishai Margalit: *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of Its Enemies*. London: Penguin Books 2005, 176 p. ISBN 978-0143034872.
- FAIRBANK, John King, Edwin O. Reischauer and Albert M. Craig: *East Asia: Tradition and Transformation*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin 1989, 1027 p. 978-0395450239.
- IWAMURA, Jane Naomi: *Virtual Orientalism: Asian Religions and American Popular Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011, 232 p. ISBN 978-0199738618
- MACFIE, Alexander Lyon: *Orientalism: A Reader*. New York: NYU Press 2001, 400 p. ISBN 978-0814756652.
- SAID, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage 1979, 368 p. ISBN 978-0394740676.