Storytellers broaden our minds: engage, provoke, inspire, and ultimately, connect us.

– Robert Redford, President and Founder of Sundance Institute

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Global cinema has the power to build knowledge, foster empathy, and generate dialogue for global citizenship and social change. In this course we will focus deeply upon contemporary global cinema as a vehicle through which to explore Asian societies and cultures. Through the power of storytelling, both dramatic film and documentaries, filmmakers allow audiences to see the world through others’ eyes, to gain understanding and to appreciate human experiences across the globe. In collaboration with the Sundance Institute and Utah Film Center, and guided by the instructors, a sociologist and film producer, students in this course will engage in close viewing and critical reflection upon films that capture lived experiences of social relationships, social divisions, and social transformations in Asia. As a result, students will gain a deeper appreciation of key aspects of filmmaking and the human impacts of major social issues confronting Asian societies.

During the 4th week of classes (from January 27 – February 2), students will have the opportunity to attend film screenings and participate in filmmaker discussions during the Sundance Film Festival. Please note that during this week, the regular class meeting will be suspended, and students will be expected to attend several Sundance Festival screenings and/or panel discussions for films with a focus upon Asia/Asia America. Students will be provided access to the Sundance and Utah Film Center screenings and other events courtesy of University of Utah.

INSTRUCTORS

Kim Korinek, Asian Studies and Sociology
Naja Pham Lockwood, Gamechanger Films

Movie: The Farewell  Photo Credit: Big Beach Films