

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR TEACHING ABOUT ASIA PROGRAM FOR TEACHING EAST ASIA

FALL 2018 ONLINE FILM GROUP

China's City Dreams: Urbanization, Demolition, and the Chaos of Reality

Funded by the Freeman Foundation



The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the **Program for Teaching East Asia (TEA), University of Colorado Boulder** invites applications for this online film group. This offering is open to high school teachers nationwide, with priority to teachers whose required curriculum includes contemporary China. *Teachers enrolled in one other NCTA-TEA online course eligible to apply.*

Overview: This course examines key issues in contemporary China through three films, each of which explores China's explosive urbanization in an unconventional and provocative way. In China, 'the city' has become the ultimate symbol of progress, modernization, and civilization—a significant departure from the pre-reform era of state socialism, when cities were regarded as the unfortunate by-product of industrialization. Then, factory workers were the model citizens of a new China; today, that role has been taken over by a leisure consumer laden with shopping-bags. These films explore the consequences of this shift and help us understand that for many living in China today, the rise of the city as a beacon of progress is an illusion hiding the chaotic reality that unchecked urbanization has rendered upon people's lives.

Films: Participants are responsible for accessing the three films for viewing, all of which are available via online purchase or streaming: *24 City* (Jia Zhangke, 2008; Vudu); *The Chinese Mayor* (Zhou Hao, 2015; Netflix); *Behemoth* (Zhao Liang, 2015; iTunes).

Online Format: The course will be conducted through three asynchronous online modules, each consisting of a viewing/reading period followed by a one-week discussion period with colleagues and the course instructor. Participants may take part in "discussion only" or choose to complete the film group with "full participation for full benefits."

Participation is free, with the following benefits for full participation: Full benefits include a certificate of completion for 16 professional development hours and a \$50 stipend (provided as a gift card) to cover costs of film rental or purchase. Teachers wishing to receive full benefits must participate fully in all three module discussions, submit a three-page Classroom Implementation Plan (CIP) describing ways to use the films in their teaching, and complete an evaluation.

Dates: Intro period: October 5-10, 2018. Modules run: October 11-24; October 25-November 8; November 9-27 (with additional time for Thanksgiving break). A short Curriculum Implementation Plan, due December 14, completes the course for those participants wishing to receive a certificate of contact hours and a completion award.

Apply online at <https://www.colorado.edu/ptea/content/online-film-group>. Registration closes September 30 or when course fills. For more information, e-mail lynn.parisi@colorado.edu.