For over a century, Hollywood has played a key role interpreting world cultures and peoples to each other. Many Americans first learned about China through “The Good Earth” and Jackie Chan movies. Native Americans, Mexicans and white Europeans have viewed each other, and often themselves, through the Cowboy and Indian film genre. Popular animated portrayals of Middle Easterners reinforce political stereotypes of the Muslim religion. These representations have made a powerful impact on our foreign relations, as well as domestic U.S. policies toward immigration, policing, guns, and the environment.

We will collaborate with BorderLinks, a bi-national, non-profit education center that organizes hands-on, cross-cultural study programs in the controversial Mexican-American border region. In this 3-week program, you will join a group of university students of Hong Kong on study adventure. You will visit the famous movie theaters, film studios and streets of Hollywood where the legends began. You will travel to the Arizona desert and meet the real people behind these images. Some of the destinations will include:

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Animals, Plants, and Landscape
- Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Blvd
- Chinese-American Museum
- Eloy Detention Center
- Hollywood Walk of Fame
- Islamic Center
- Japanese-American Museum
- Jewish History Museum
- Madame Tussauds Wax Museum
- Mexican-American Museum
- Native American Cultural Center
- Native American Sweat Lodge
- Old Tucson Movie Studios: Hollywood in the Desert
- Paramount Studios
- Pioneer Museum
- The US-Mexican Border Wall
- Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

Group discussions in Hong Kong and in the United States will focus on critical thinking and inter-cultural communication skills. Participants will become film reviewers, policy analysts as well as adventures.