



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 355 - History of Chinese Cinema

Haoyue Li

This course offers an introduction to Chinese film history, designed for undergraduate students across all disciplines at the university. It is organized around three principal themes. First, through the examination of landmark works in Chinese film history, students will interpret films as cultural-historical reflections of their era, with attention to how they embody socio-cultural transformations. Second, it students will develop an ability to analyze cinematic language using professional film terminology, including techniques such as shot, lighting, and composition. Third, this course seeks to incorporate perspectives from material cultural history and sensory history, utilizing “sensory narratives of objects” to examine character portrayals and historical imagination in film. Through integration of classic case studies with interdisciplinary methodologies, the course seeks to enhance students’ cinematic aesthetic literacy and critical thinking capacities.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Berry, Chris, ed. Chinese Films in Focus II. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Rea, Christopher. Chinese Film Classics: 1922-1949. Columbia University Press, 2021.

Zhang, Zhen, ed. The Urban Generation: Chinese Cinema and Society at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century. Duke University Press, 2007.

Assignments

Weekly Discussions|10

In-Class Quizzes|20

Group Presentation|20

Responses Papers|20

Sequence Analysis Essay|15

Film Proposal|15