



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

Renren Yang

What's film got to do with history? What can we learn about Chinese history from Chinese films? In this class, we will explore major transformations in modern China through watching Chinese-language cinema. We will treat film as a window on the narrative of a people making history: responding to changing circumstances of war, revolution, exile, political upheavals, economic reform, and industrial modernization. The course will navigate six major periods: the May Fourth New Culture (1919-1920s), the wartime Republican Era (1930s-1940s), the early socialist period (1949-1966), the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), the open-up and reform era (1978-1990s) and the decades of fast urbanization and globalization since 1990s. We will learn to be sensitive to film as a medium that brings to life the neglected and marginalized sociopolitical realities of 20th century China. The course will introduce basic film theory and film language. No prior knowledge of the Chinese language is required.

Mode of Delivery: In-person

Sample Readings

Berry, Chris, ed., Chinese Film in Focus Berry, Chris and Mary Farquhar, China on Screen: Cinema and Nation, 2006.

China: A Century of Revolution-Part 1: China in Revolution, 1911-1949 (Williams dir., 1997)
Available on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/l5cl0GjPjy4>.

Morning Sun (Barmé, Gordon and Hinton dir., 2003) Available on UBC Kanopy at <https://ubc.kanopy.com/video/morning-sun-0>.

Assignments

Group UBC Wiki Project | 25%

In-class Closed Book Quizzes | 23%

3 Take-home Open Book Tests | 35%

In-class Participation (Pre-course survey, final course assessment, in-class activities, in-class discussions) | 17%

Optional Bonus Points