

EAST368
East Asian Genre Cinemas
Winter 2021
Friday 1:35-5:25pm
Remote Delivery

Instructor: Prof. Xinyu Dong (xinyu.dong@mcgill.ca)
Office Hours: Friday 3:00-3:30pm by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Over the past century, East Asian cinemas have not only cultivated their auteur directors and art-house films, but also their vibrant film cultures and popular genres, such as martial arts action, horror, ghost film, family melodrama, etc. This course explores the historical and aesthetic dimensions of East Asian genre cinemas in national, regional, and international frameworks. We will sample representative works of various genres and genre mixtures, analyze genre conventions and innovations, and examine the social and cultural factors in genre production and consumption. The course introduces critical terms in relevant cultural and genre theories and trains the students to develop skills in the culturally informed reading of cinematic forms. All film subtitles and readings in English.

Course Materials

All readings will be available in weekly folders on MyCourses (“Content”).

Links will be provided for viewing the required films at home; certain titles may be available only via rental streaming services. You are responsible for making sure that you can access all the required films.

Please bookmark the Film Analysis Website: <https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/>, which hosts some of the required readings.

Students are expected to come to class having watched the film, completed the reading(s), and participated in the online discussion (see below).

Remote Delivery Guide

Zoom class meetings: The class will meet through **live Zoom sessions** on Fridays @1:35-3:00 pm. We will use the shorter Zoom meeting to simulate as much as possible a real classroom experience, which includes discussion, PowerPoint presentation, and in-class sequence analysis exercise. You may be asked to share your thoughts and observations anytime during the class meeting. You can raise your hand using the Zoom interface or simply unmute yourself, and will be called on to speak in a randomized order like in a real class. We will use Zoom Chat for designated purposes and during certain class activities.

Office hours: I will hold office hours right after class on Fridays, 3:00-3:30pm, using the same Zoom link. You can stay around after class (there will be breakout/wait rooms) or email in advance to schedule an appointment.

Discussion board activities: We will make up for the remaining class time with discussion board activities. Weekly forums will be set up under “Discussions” on MyCourses. Starting from Week 2, you are expected to participate in a two-part online discussion in preparation for each upcoming Friday class.

The **first part** is to write a 200-250 words reading-screening response, due 11:59pm on **Wednesday**, where you identify the main thesis of the reading(s) and the ways the reading(s) allow you to better understand the film. The **second part**, due 11:59pm on **Thursday**, is to read your classmates’ postings and briefly respond to one of them in about 100 words.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance	10%
2. Participation	10%
3. Discussion Board Posts	30%
4. Midterm Take-Home Exam	25%
5. Final Take-Home Exam	25%

Due to the integrated nature of the course’s pedagogy, students are required to attend and participate in the Zoom meetings in order to meet the course objectives. If you are unable to attend the Zoom meeting regularly, please consider taking EAST368 next year. This course will be offered again in 2021-2022.

NOTE: (1) McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (2) In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. (3) In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change. (4) If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) at 514-398-6009 before you do this.