EAST 279/ ENGL 279 (former FILM 279)
Introduction to Film History
Autumn 2020
Monday 2:35pm-6:25pm
Remote Delivery
Tentative Syllabus

Instructors
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Teaching Assistants
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Designed as one of the two core courses for World Cinemas Minors, this course introduces key historical moments, cinematic movements, formal styles, as well as historiographical and theoretical debates in the history of world cinema. The course maps out diverging trajectories and merging paths of exemplary filmmakers and filmmaking collectives in various nations and geo-political regions against the backdrop of the changing technological media environments. While we distinguish chronology from history, the course follows the transformation of cinema from its emergent era to the present. Students will read both historical and contemporary texts to gain a broad sense of the seminal debates in film studies, reception and criticism. This course aims to foster a critical understanding of cinema as an international, distributed and polycentric phenomenon.

COURSE DELIVERY GUIDE:
This course is team taught, with the professors alternating in the delivery of the lectures based on their areas of expertise. A lecture (two- or multiple-part) per week is pre-recorded along with a PowerPoint slide show, delivered by the professor(s).

Professor(s) will hold a Zoom Q&A session each week.

Professor(s) will hold Zoom office hours each week.

Students will attend a smaller (20-30 student) 40-minute conference a week, led by TA.
There will be a total of six conferences offered by the TAs. Conference meeting times could be scheduled to suit different time zones.

Students will be able use the discussion boards to post responses and questions and to communicate with each other.

COURSE MATERIALS:
All readings will be available on MyCourses.

Students will receive information on viewing option (s) for the required films listed as screenings.

EVALUATION:
1. Conference Activities 40%
2. Open-book Quizzes 30%
3. Take-home Exam 30%

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.

WEEKLY SCREENINGS (subject to change)

Week 1 September 14 The Movies Begin
Screening: A selection of early films (1895-1912)

Week 2 September 21 Soviet Cinema and Montage
Screening: Battleship Potemkin (Sergei Eisenstein, 1925, USSR, 75 min)

Week 3 September 28 German Expressionism and the Birth of Sound
Screening: M (Fritz Lang, Germany, 1931, 110 minutes)

Week 4 October 5 Chinese Cinema and the Late Silent Era
Screening: The Goddess (Wu, Yonggang, China, 1934, 73min)

Week 5 October 12
No Class [Thanksgiving]
Week 6  October 19  French Realism and the Popular Front
Screening: *The Rules of the Game* (Jean Renoir, France, 1939,)

Week 7  October 26  Italian Neorealism and World War 2
Screening: *Rome Open City* (Roberto Rossellini, Italy, 1945, 103 min)

Week 8  November 2  Art Cinema and Postwar Japan
Screening: *Rashomon* (Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 1950, 88 min)

Week 9  November 9  Third Cinema and Africa
Screening: *Black Girl* (Ousmane Sembene, 1966, Senegal, 65 min)

Week 10  November 16  Cinema Novo
Screening: *Macunaíma* (Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, 1969, Brazil, 110 min)

Week 11  November 23  The Feminist New Wave
Screening: *One Sings, The Other Doesn’t* (Agnes Varda, France, 1977, 121 min)

Week 12  November 30  Taiwan New Wave
Screening: *Dust in the Wind* (Hou Hsiao-Hsien, 1986, Taiwan, 109 min)

Week 12  December 3  Hong Kong New Wave
Screening: *Chungking Express* (Wong Kar-wai, 1994, Hong Kong, 102 min)

Week 13  December 7  Korean Cinema and Transnational Genres
Screening: *The Host* (Bong Joon-ho, 2006, South Korea, 119 min)