EAST353
Approaches to Chinese-language Cinema
Autumn 2020
Friday 1:35-5:25pm
Remote Delivery
Tentative Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Xinyu Dong (xinyu.dong@mcgill.ca)
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description and Objectives
This course examines the history of Chinese-language cinema from the 1920s to the 2000s. The course material is organized both chronologically and thematically, moving from early popular and political films in the Republican era, to local productions in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the Cold War era, to New Wave and genre films from the 1980s onward. The course familiarizes the students with major critical paradigms for the study of Chinese-language cinema and trains the student to develop skills in theoretical and formal film analyses. All film subtitles and readings in English.

Course Delivery Guide
The class will meet through live Zoom sessions at the scheduled class time.

There will be a combination of lectures (with PowerPoint slide show), discussions, and group activities. The lecture component will be recorded.

Professor will hold Zoom office hours each week.

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.

Course Requirements
1. Discussion Board Posts 30%
2. Open-book Quizzes 30%
3. Take-home Exam 40%

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 4
Introduction

Week 2  September 11
Screening:  *Laborer’s Love* (Zhang, Shichuan; 1922)

Week 3  September 18
Screening:  *Street Angel* (Yuan, Muzhi; 1937)

Week 4  September 25
Screening:  *Spring in a Small Town* (Fei, Mu; 1947)

Week 5  October 2
Screening:  *The Love Eterne* [aka *The Butterfly Lovers*] (Li, Hanxiang; 1963)

Week 6  October 9
Screening:  *Beautiful Duckling* (Li, Hsing, 1965)

Week 7  October 16
Screening:  *Red Detachment of Women* (Pan, Wenzhan & Fu Jie; 1970)

Week 8  October 23
Screening:  *Yellow Earth* (Chen, Kaige, 1984)

Week 9  October 30
Screening:  *A Better Tomorrow* (Woo, John, 1986)

Week 10  November 6
Screening:  *Terrorizers* (Yang, Edward; 1986)

Week 11  November 13
Screening:  *In the Heat of the Sun* (Jiang, Wen, 1994)

Week 12  November 20
Screening:  *Kung Fu Hustle* (Chow, Stephen; 2004)

Week 13  November 27