

EAST 454 Topics on Chinese Cinema: Forms of Family
Fall 2021
Friday 2:35-5:25pm
Sherbrooke 688 RM 294

Instructor: Professor Xinyu Dong (xinyu.dong@mcgill.ca)
Office Hours: TBA & by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

The family is a small world where human relations are made and remade. It has received some of the most inspired representations in cinemas around the world throughout film history. In Chinese cinema, family is an especially favored subject because filial piety has long occupied the central position in Confucian ideology and as such has also been powerfully questioned in the 20th century. Through a selection of family-subject films from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Chinese diaspora, this course examines the cinematic representation of the forms and transformations of family in modern Chinese societies. Major topics include the relationships among the individual, family, community and the nation, family from the perspectives of gender, generation, and social change, and family films at the intersection of cinematic genres.

Course Materials

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

Course Requirements

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| 1. Attendance | 10% |
| 2. Participation | 10% |
| 3. Discussion Board Posts | 20% |
| 4. Midterm Take-Home Exam | 30% |
| 5. Final 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.