EAS 140 (#8542)

Introduction to East Asian Cinema

1st Quarter, Spring 2019
Tu&Th 5:45PM - 8:35PM
HU 132

Dr. Fan Pen Chen
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Movies are said to represent popular media's most prestigious art form. Contemporary Chinese cinematography is claiming a status among the best cinematographies of the world. Embedded in Chinese culture, its films provide a window to understanding traditional and modern Chinese culture. This course offers a general introduction to Chinese history and culture with an emphasis on the 20th century, and the aesthetics of Chinese cinema through the lens of six (6) films.

The course fulfills the General Studies Arts requirement. No prior knowledge of East Asian language or cinema is necessary.

Required Materials:

A packet of critiques of the six films is available through our University Electronic Reserve System (ERes) which can be accessed through the Blackboard Learning System (BLS).

Please note this is a quarter course. The Final Exam is scheduled by the university to be given on Tuesday March 120th. Each week the class will view one film. It is essential that you plan to attend all meetings of this class. You must not come to class late. Wandering in and out of class is extremely distracting to the professor and other students in any course but even more so in a course of this nature.

Grades:

Grading will be determined as follows: 1) class attendance (10% of the final grade); 2) contribution to class discussions; team-based discussion sheets (25% of the final grade); 3) midterm exam (30% of the final grade); 4) final exam (35% of the final grade).
Numerical scores will be converted to course grades according to the following scale: 93-100%=A; 90-92.99%=A-; 87-89.99%=B+; 83-86.99%=B; 80-82.99%=B-; 77-79.99%=C+; 73-76.99%=C; 70-72.99%=C-; 67-69.99%=D+; 63-66.99%=D; 60-62.99%=D-; 0-59.99%=E.

Attendance will be taken at each class, beginning on the first day of class. No unexcused absences are allowed. A record of absences, late arrivals and early departures will be kept and they will affect the attendance component of your grade. **If you tend to miss classes, you should think about dropping this class now.** Also, there is no eating or drinking in class.

**Class Rules** You are responsible for reading the undergraduate students’ manual online for familiarity with the university rules and regulations which also apply to our class. The discovery of any cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any kind) during an exam will result in 1) expulsion from this class with a failing grade, 2) a referral of the matter to appropriate university officials.

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**Learning Objectives for General Education Arts Courses**

Arts courses enable students to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the history and/or practice of one form of artistic expression;
2. an understanding of the function and meaning of form;
3. that they have the vocabulary they need to continue to learn about how art is made and interpreted;
4. depending on the nature of the course, recognition of the difference and overlap between creative and critical thinking;
5. depending on the nature of the course, an understanding of how art works are embedded within different cultures at different times and places.
EAS 140 Course Schedule, Spring 2019
(Subject to Amendment)

1/24 – Introduction. View “Hero.”
1/29 – Overview of traditional Chinese history. Discussion of film.
1/31 – View “The King of Masks.”
2/5 – Critical terminologies. Discussion of film.
2/7 – View “To Live.”
2/12 – Overview of modern Chinese history. Discussion of film.
2/14 – MIDTERM
2/19 – View “Farewell My Concubine.”
2/21 – Discussion of film.
2/6 – View “Together.”
2/28 – Discussion of film.
3/5 – View “Drink Eat Man Woman.”
3/7 – Discussion of film.
3/12 – FINAL EXAM