



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

## ASIA\_V 345 - Chinese Film Classics

### Christopher Rea

This intensive online course focuses on 1) the early history of Chinese cinema, and 2) analysis of film form. Its core cases are films made in mainland China up to 1949, when the communists won the civil war and nationalized China's film industry. Each module involves analyzing the history and artistry of a single film. You will learn how to assess cinematic quality, using individual films as case studies, applying basic concepts of film criticism. A broader goal is to master techniques of discovering and pursuing your own learning interests related to cinematic and cultural history. Much of the coursework is asynchronous. Mandatory synchronous sessions on Zoom involve graded activities. No background in Chinese studies or cinema studies is required. All films have English subtitles or intertitles. Approximately 3.5 hours of class time per week are synchronous and require live participation; the other 4.5 hours are asynchronous. Assignment breakdown subject to change.

**Mode of Delivery:** Online

#### Sample Readings

Sikov, Ed (2020). *Film Studies: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. Columbia University Press.

Rea, Christopher (2021). *Chinese Film Classics, 1922-1949*. Columbia University Press.

Mullaney, Thomas S. and Christopher Rea. *Where Research Begins: Choosing a Research Project That Matters to You (and the World)*. University of Chicago Press.

#### Assignments

Quizzes on readings | 20%

Quizzes on films and video lectures | 20%

Sequence analysis essay | 20%

Video essay | 20%

Group Wikipedia article editing assignment | 10%

Attendance and participation | 10%