

PAAS 357: Chinese Cinema from Text to Screen

Instructor: Angie Chau

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Course description:

This course looks at some of the most critically and commercially successful films in recent Chinese cinematic history that have been adapted from literary sources. We will begin the semester by reading a selection of fiction from the Republican period that have inspired films produced from the 1930s up to the last decade, such as Ang Lee's 2007 film *Lust, Caution*, which is based on Eileen Chang's novella. We will also watch examples of socialist era filmmaking and historical dramas adapted from 1990s fiction. The course will conclude with texts about the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) and Guo Jingming's popular *Tiny Times* series. Along the way, we will discuss issues of translation, genre, media, censorship, marketing, and globalization, in order to further deepen our understanding of the relationship between cultural production, events in modern Chinese history, and current trends in social and political thought in and outside of China.

Proposed assignments:

Attendance, Participation	10 %
Weekly online commentaries	20%
Midterm take home exam	25%
Group presentation	15%
Final project	30%

Proposed reading list:

Eileen Chang. <i>Lust, Caution</i> (1979)
Dai Sijie. <i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i> (2000)
Mao Dun. "Spring Silkworms" (1932)
Mo Yan. <i>Red Sorghum</i> (1986)
Su Tong. <i>Wives and Concubines</i> (1990)
Yu Hua. <i>To Live</i> (1993)
Additional selected readings