



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

ASIA_V 351 - Modern Chinese Fiction in Translation

Xiaoqiao Xu

What does it mean to be modern, and how does this shape our understanding of modern Chinese literature? Is modern Chinese literature similar to its Western counterpart? If it diverges significantly from traditional Chinese literature, how do we define modernity? These questions form the foundation of this course, which introduces you to modern Chinese fiction—a powerful tool used by early 20th-century literati, such as Lu Xun, to “wake up the masses.” In this course, we will read novels, mostly short stories, written by well-known Chinese authors from the early 20th century to the 21st century. You will develop skills in close reading, literary analysis, and critical essay writing. By the end of this course, you will have a deeper understanding of how modern Chinese fiction intersects with cultural, historical, and ideological movements. All readings will be in English. Each meeting will be up to 2 hours. The remaining 2 hours will be allocated for reading the texts and completing assignments by yourself

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Life Adrift*.

Shen Congwen, *Border Town: A Novel*.

Priest, *Guardian (Zhenhun)*.

Assignments

Weekly Discussion and Contribution | 12%

Entrance Survey | 2%

In-Class Quiz | 20%

Three 400-word Reading responses | 30%

Short Essay I (max. 800 words) | 18%

Short Essay II (max. 800 words) | 18%