ASIA_V 361 - Modern Chinese Fiction in Translation II

Renren Yang

This reading-and-writing-intensive course offers a thematic introduction to twentieth-and twenty-first-century Chinese fiction. In this course, we explore how the love story has evolved from late nineteenth century to present-day Chinese culture, asking along the way what we can learn about Chinese views of marriage and family, individual and nation-state, gender and sexuality, fate and choice, truth and deception, trust and betrayal, ritual and emotion, and freedom and solidarity from canonical and non-canonical works in Chinese literature. These materials provide a basis for exploring affective relations in modern China, their indebtedness to traditional culture and entanglement with changing sociopolitical realities, and the way they will continue to evolve in the future. This course focuses on the genre of narrative fiction. No knowledge of the Chinese language or history is required, and all readings will be in English.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Lau, Joseph S. M, and Howard Goldblatt. *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*. Columbia University Press, 1995.

Illouz, Eva. *Why Love Hurts: A Sociological Explanation*. Polity Press, 2012.

Wang, David Der-wei. *Why Fiction Matters in Contemporary China*. Brandeis UP, 2020.

Assignments

Three Writing Projects | 60%

Pop Quizzes | 20%

Learning Community Contribution | 20%