



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

ASIA_V 319 - Contemporary Chinese Popular Cultures

Xiaoqiao Xu

This course introduces contemporary Chinese popular culture as a lens for understanding the major social, political, and economic changes in China since 1978, when China launched its economic reform. By exploring both historical context and current developments, we will gain insight into the diversity and complexity of contemporary Chinese cultural life. We will examine how popular culture, through media, music, film, television, art, literature, digital platforms, and everyday practices, shapes and reflects the lived experiences, aspirations, and tensions of people across different regions and social groups in China. Through readings, media viewings, lectures, group discussions, creative and writing assignments, you will critically engage with popular cultural forms, such as duanju ("short drama"), learning to analyze them from multiple perspectives. The mode of delivery and sample assignments are subject to change.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Wang, Zheng. "Call me Qingnian but not Funü: A Maoist Youth in Retrospect." *Feminist Studies*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2001, pp. 9-34.

Wang, Pan. "Inventing Traditions: Television Dating Shows in the People's Republic of China." *Media, Culture & Society*, vol. 39, no. 4, 2017, pp. 504-519.

Assignments

Weekly Discussion and Contribution|13%

Groupwork Peer Evaluation|7%

Four 400-word Responses|30%

Critical Essay (max. 800 words)|20%

Popular Culture Portfolio|20%

Creative Project|10%