



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

Hanyang Jiang

This course focuses on the short stories, novellas, and novels of six major modern Chinese writers: Lu Xun (1881-1936), Xiao Hong (1911-1942), Shen Congwen (1902-1988), Li Jieren (1891-1962), Qian Zhongshu (1910-1998), and Zhang Ailing (1920-1995). In addition to their prose works in English translation, we will also read English-language scholarly articles and book chapters on the various facets of literary modernity in China. Topics include the (mis)equation of baihua (lit., "plain writing") with the vernacular, translational encounters within the conceptual terrain of xiaoshuo/novel, the introduction of Western-style punctuation, the reorientation of Chinese writing from vertical to horizontal, the advent of deckle-edged books, the politics of first-person narration, the dynamics of literary territorialization, and the geopoetics of localities, among others.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Xia, X. Y. (2025). "Guarded Pages, Borderless Books Lu Xun and the Revolution of the Book in Modern China" (pp. 83-98). Hong Kong University Press.

Shang, W. (2014). "Writing and Speech: Rethinking the Issue of Vernaculars in Early Modern China" (pp. 254-301). Brill.

Xie, M. Q. (2023). Territorializing Manchuria: The Transnational Frontier and Literatures of East Asia (pp. 69-125). Harvard University Asia Center

Assignments

Reading Questions|25

Leading Discussions|25

Story Board|20

Final Paper|30