



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

Renren Yang

“Why Is China So ... Uncool?” Western audiences often ponder why Chinese pop-culture lacks the global swagger enjoyed by American Hollywood, Japanese anime, and Korean Hallyu. To properly address these questions, we will canvass a host of popular culture scenes taking place in contemporary PRC (post-1978), Hong Kong (since 1970s), and Taiwan (since 1970s), and discuss how Chinese popular cultures demonstrate the evolving tension between the avant-garde and the grassroots, the original and the derivative, the public and the private, the national and the individual, the global and the local, and the labor and the value in the age of neo-liberalization. This course introduces you to a range of multimedia materials of Chinese popular cultures in the forms of commercial newspapers, fiction, movies, TV shows, pop music, comics, and video games. No prior knowledge of the Chinese language is required, and all the readings/viewings are in English.

Mode of Delivery: In-person

Sample Readings

Carlos Rojas and Eileen Cheng-yin Chow ed. Rethinking Chinese Popular Culture: Cannibalizations of the Canon. Routledge, 2011.

Kang Liu. Globalization and Cultural Trends in China. U of Hawaii Press, 2004.

Perry Link, et al. Popular China: Unofficial Culture in a Globalizing Society. Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

Assignments

Three Creative Assignments | 55%

Weekly Pre-class Study Journal Entries | 20%

Four Open-book Take-home Exams | 15%

In-class Participation | 10%

Bonus Points | 9%