

PAAS 151: Modern Chinese Culture

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Chinese science fiction and *The Three-Body Problem* (Source: *The Atlantic*, December 2017)

Course description:

This course surveys patterns of Chinese culture in relation to a range of domestic and international economic, social and political contexts in contemporary China. Case studies of Chinese culture will also be placed in traditional perspective, including earlier periods back to the mid-19th century, to highlight the effects of modern events on cultural life in China, particularly in the areas of literature, visual and performing arts, film, media and cyberspace.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyse a range of perspectives relevant to understanding modern Chinese culture
- Consider and evaluate the empirical realities of particular cultural phenomena revealed in case studies in relation to contemporary economic, social and political developments in China
- Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of various interpretations of contemporary Chinese culture

Proposed assignments:

Critical reflections exercises	35%
Academic journal article or book chapter review	20%
Course paper	30%
Attendance and participation	15%

Proposed reading list:

Sample readings include the following:

Wang, F. (2007) "Western discourse" and contemporary Chinese culture, *Frontiers of literary studies in China* 1 (2), pp. 197-212.

Chen, E. Y. (2009) Shanghai Baby as a Chinese chick-lit: Female empowerment and neoliberal consumerist agency, *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 15 (1), pp. 54-93.

Mu, Shiyong 穆時英 (1934) Shanghai Foxtrot (上海的狐步舞 Shànghǎi de húbùwǔ). In *Mu Shiyong: China's Lost Modernist*. (Translated by Field, A. D., 2014) Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 105-118.

Andrews, J. F. (2010) The art of the Cultural Revolution. In King, R. (Ed.) *Art in turmoil: The Chinese Cultural Revolution 1966-76*. Vancouver: UBC Press, pp. 27-57.

Liu, Cixin 刘慈欣 (2014) *The three-body problem* [三体 *Sāntǐ*]. New York: Tom Doherty, pp. 5-22, 269-276 [Chapters 1 and 23].