PAAS 151: Modern Chinese Culture

Fall 2019
Instructor: Andrew Marton

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:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical reflections exercises</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Academic journal article or book chapter review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Course paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Proposed reading list:

Sample readings include the following:


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