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:


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