

# The Politics of Emotion in Postsocialist Chinese Literature, Film, and Culture

TU Hang

## Course Description

This course examines Chinese literature, film, and culture from the late seventies to the contemporary era, with a focus on the expression and representation of emotion and affect. We will explore the emotions explicitly manifested or addressed in a variety of cultural artifacts (fiction, poetry, biography, documentary, film, and intellectual discourse), while also identifying previously unacknowledged affective structures implicitly at work during the country's postsocialist transition. It will address topics such as humanist testimony, guilt and shame, memory and trauma, sentimentalism and neoliberalism, mourning, nostalgia, melancholy, religious feeling, loyalism, fear and resentment.

## Syllabus

### Week 1 Introduction: emotion, “qing,” and affect

William Reddy, *The Navigation of Feeling: A Framework for the History of Emotions* (Cambridge, 2001), part I

Haiyan Lee, *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950* (Stanford, 2006), part I

Ruth Leys, “The Turn to Affect: A Critique,” *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 37 (3) (April 2011), 434-472

### Week 2 Humanism as literary testimony

戴厚英：《人啊，人！》（人民文學，2007）

Binyan Liu, *People or Monsters? And Other Stories and Reportage from China* (Indiana, 1983) (劉賓雁：《人妖之間》)

Alexander C. Cook, *The Cultural Revolution on Trial: Mao and the Gang of Four* (Columbia, 2016), Intro and chapter 4

Martha C. Nussbaum, *Political Emotions: Why Love Matters for Justice* (Harvard, 2015), Intro

### Week 3 Guilt and shame

巴金：《隨想錄》（作家出版社，2005），節選

季羨林：《牛棚雜憶》（香港三聯，1999），節選

劉再復、林崗：《罪與文學》（香港牛津，2002），節選

Ruth Leys, *From Guilt to Shame: Auschwitz and After* (Princeton, 2009), Intro and select chapters

Karl Jaspers, *The Question of German Guilt* (Fordham, 2001), select chapters

### Week 4 Trauma and memory

Ma Jian, *Beijing Coma: A Novel* (Farrar, 2008)（馬建：《北京植物人》）

Fang Lizhi, “The Chinese Amnesia,” *The New York Review of Books*, September 27, 1990

Carma Hinton, dir., *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1995)

Michael Berry, *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film* (Columbia, 2008), Intro and chapter 5

David Gross, *Lost Time: On Remembering and Forgetting in Late Modern Culture* (U Massachusetts, 2011), select chapters

### **Week 5 Desire, melodrama, and neoliberalism**

Lu Xiaowei, dir., *Yearning* (1990) (魯曉威導演：《渴望》)

Lisa Rofel, *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality, and Public Culture* (Duke, 2007), Intro and chapter 1

Jason McGrath, *Postsocialist Modernity: Chinese Cinema, Literature, and Criticism in the Market Age* (Stanford, 2008), Intro and chapter 3

Peter Brooks, *The Melodramatic Imagination* (Yale, 1995), select chapters

### **Week 6 “The inability to mourn”**

Hu Jie, dir. *Although I am Gone* (2006) (胡傑導演：《我雖死去》)

*In Search of Lin Zhao’s Soul* (2005) (胡傑導演：《追尋林昭的靈魂》)

Jie Li, “Virtual Museums of Forbidden Memories: Hu Jie’s Documentary Films on the Cultural Revolution,” *Public Culture* Vol. 21, No. 3 (2009): 538-550

Alexander and Margarete Mitscherlich, *The Inability to Mourn: Principles of Collective Behavior* (Grove, 1975), Intro

Anna M. Parkinson, *An Emotional State* (Michigan, 2015), Intro and chapter 3.

### **Week 7 Postsocialist Nostalgia**

王安憶：《憂傷的年代》(麥田：1998)

Jiang Wen, dir. *In the Heat of the Sun* (姜文導演：《陽光燦爛的日子》)

Jeremie Barmé, “Totalitarian Nostalgia,” *In the Red* (Columbia, 1999)

Svetlana Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia* (Basic, 2002), Intro.

### **Week 8 Left melancholy in Taiwan**

陳映真：《試論陳映真》；《後街：陳映真的創作歷程》，《陳映真文選》(三聯書店，2009)；《趙南棟》，《陳映真自選集》(三聯書店，2007)

劉大任：《杜鵑啼血》(洪範書店，1990)

Yomi Braster, “Taiwanese Identity and the Crisis of Memory: Post-Chiang Mystery,” David Wang and Carlos Rojas edit., *Writing Taiwan: A New Literary History* (Duke, 2007)

Enzo Traverso, *Left-Wing Melancholy: Marxism, History, and Memory* (Columbia, 2015), Intro

Wendy Brown, “Resisting Left Melancholia,” David L. Eng edit., *Loss: The Politics of Mourning* (California, 2002)

### **Week 9 Religious feeling**

Yu Hua, “Leader,” *China in Ten Words* (Anchor, 2012) (余華：《領袖》，《十個詞彙里的中國》)

Yan Lianke, *Serve the People: A Novel* (Grove, 2008) (閻連科：《為人民服務》)

Daniel Leese, *Mao Cult: Rhetoric and Ritual in China’s Cultural Revolution* (Cambridge, 2011), Intro

Haiyan Lee, "Mao's Two Bodies: On the Curious (Political) Art of Impersonating the Great Helmsman," in Jie Li & Enhua Zhang ed., *Red Legacies in China: Cultural Afterlives of the Communist Revolution* (Harvard, 2016)

### **Week 10 (Post)loyalist sentiments**

陳寅恪：《清華大學王觀堂先生紀念碑銘》，《金明館叢稿二編》（三聯書店，2015）

胡文輝：《陳寅恪詩箋釋》，（廣東人民，2008），節選

余英時：《陳寅恪晚年詩文釋證》，（東大圖書，1984），節選

王德威：《后遺民寫作》，（麥田，2007），節選

Wai-ye Li, "Nostalgia and Resistance: Gender and the Poetry of Chen Yinke," *Xiang Lectures on Chinese Poetry* (Montreal: McGill University Press, 2016)

### **Week 11 Authoritarianism and fear**

劉小楓：《游擊隊員與中國現代性問題》；《毛澤東與中國的國家理由》；《如何認識百年共和的歷史含義》，《百年共和之義》（華東師大，2015）

Martha C. Nussbaum, *The Monarchy of fear* (Simon & Schuster, 2018), select chapters

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago, 2007) (Include "Notes on Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, by Leo Strauss)

John P. McCormick, "Fear, Technology, and the State: Carl Schmitt, Leo Strauss, and the Revival of Hobbes in Weimar and National Socialist Germany," *Political Theory*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Nov. 1994): 619-652

### **Week 12 Popular nationalism and resentment**

Wu Jing, dir., *Wolverine 2* (吳京：《戰狼2》)

宋曉軍、王曉東、宋強《中國不高興：大時代大目標及我們的內憂外患》（江蘇人民：2009），節選

Suisheng Zhao, *A Nation-State by Construction: Dynamics of Modern Chinese Nationalism* (Stanford, 2004), select chapters

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Penguin, 2014), select chapters on Nietzsche's conception of resentment