The history of twentieth-century China has been dominated by the Communist revolution of 1949. Consequently, historians typically view Chinese society during the first half of the twentieth century in light of the events and ideas that led up to 1949. In particular, their focus has been trained on two momentous struggles: the clash between Confucian and Western values, and the triumph of the peasant revolution over the old regime. This course, however, is devoted to less cataclysmic cultural and political changes that took place in the cities, and thus made no direct contribution to the Communist revolution in the countryside. In Shanghai, amid the glare of the big city, cultural changes—both radical and subtle—created a new cosmopolitan world compounded of both Western and Chinese values and cultural icons. While lacking revolutionary consequences, the romance novels and Hollywood-style films (for example) of Shanghai’s urban culture still can tell us a great deal about the search for meaning and value in modern Chinese society. We will study this new culture of Shanghai and its political implications in the context of the transformation of urban society and the emergence of new social classes.

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(campus extension 53087)
Office Hours: Mondays 3-4; Wednesdays 10-12

Requirements: The seminar meets once a week (Wednesday 2-4:50 pm). Attendance is mandatory. The amount of reading per week varies, but usually is around 150-200 pages. In one week (the last week) we read a whole novel that is considerably longer.

Written Assignments: Students will write three essays, 5-7 pages in length (typed, double-spaced), on topics assigned by the instructor based on the assigned readings/films for the course. The essays will be due on October 30; November 20; December 11.

Grading: Each written assignment is worth 25% of the final grade. The other 25% of the grade will be based on class participation.
Website: The class website address is:
https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/19F-HIST97G-1

Books Available at ASUCLA Bookstore and College Library Reserve:
(Note: surnames of Chinese & Japanese authors are capitalized):

Marie-Claire Bergère, *Shanghai*
HAN Bangqing, *Sing-Song Girls of Shanghai*
Patrick Hanan, transl., *The Sea of Regret: Two Turn-of-the Century Chinese Romantic Novels*
MAO Tun, *Midnight*
Riichi YOKOMITSU, *Shanghai*

Note: All Other Required Readings are Available on the Class Website

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Week 1 (October 2nd): **Introduction**

Week 2 (October 9th): **“Shanghai Style”: Courtesan Culture**

  Bergère, *Shanghai*, 1-7, 85-129
  Han Bangqing, *Sing-Song Girls of Shanghai* (1892), chapters 1-14, 29-42 (pp. 1-116, 234-252)

Week 3 (October 16th): **Social Criticism in the Late Qing Novel**

  FU Lin, “Stones in the Sea” (1906) and WU Jianren, “Sea of Regret” (1906) in
  Patrick Hanan, transl., *The Sea of Regret: Two Turn-of-the Century Chinese Romantic Novels*, 21-205
  QIU Jin, “Stones of the Jingwei Bird (1905-7),” in Dooling & Torgeson, ed. *Writing Women in Modern China*, 39-78

Week 4 (October 23rd): **Romantic Love in “Butterfly” Fiction**

  Bergère, *Shanghai*, 130-144
  Perry Link, *Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies*, 1-64
Week 5 (October 30th): **Sex in the City: From the Brothel to the Cinema**

**First Essay Due**

- Bergère, *Shanghai*, 147-176, 242-284

Film in class: *The Goddess* (dir. Wu Yonggang; 1934)

Week 6 (November 6th): **Eros and Liberation: The “Modern Girl”**

- SHI Pingmei, “Lin Nan’s Diary (1928),” in Dooling & Torgeson, *Writing Women in Modern China*, 115-130

Week 7 (November 13th): **Vanguard of Western Civilization: College Life**

- Bergère, *Shanghai*, 177-212
- Wen-hsin YEH, *The Alienated Academy*, 1-6, 49-166, 202-278

Film in class: *Plunder of Peach and Plum* (dir. YING Yunwei; 1934)

Week 8 (November 20th): **An Alien Country: Cosmopolitanism and Squalor**

**Second Essay Due**

- Riichi YOKOMITSU, *Shanghai* (1929-31)
**Week 9 (November 27th): Shanghai’s “Petty Urbanites”**

Wen-hsin YEH, “Petty Urbanites and Tales of Woe,” in YEH, *Shanghai Splendor*, pp. 129-151

Film: *Street Angels* (dir. YUAN Muzhi; 1937)

**Week 10 (December 4th): Demise of the Chinese Bourgeoisie**

MAO Dun, *Midnight* (1933)

**December 11th: Final Essay Due**

Please turn in your essay to the History Department main office (6265 Bunche) by 5:00 pm