Course Description
This course will explore the ways in which Chinese artists of the 20th century have defined modernity and their tradition against the complex background of China’s history. A key issue for modern Chinese art is the degree to which Chinese artists have chosen to adopt Western conventions and the extent to which they have rejected them. Equally legitimate positions have been taken by artists whose work actively opposes the legacy of the past and by those who pursue innovations based upon their particular understandings of the Chinese tradition. Through examining art works in different media, including oil painting, graphic design, woodblock prints, traditional ink and color painting, and recent installation and video art, along with theoretical writing, bibliographical and institutional data, and other documentary materials, we will investigate the most compelling of the multiple realities that Chinese artists have constructed for themselves.

Textbook:

Course Requirement: complete reading assignments and write summaries, participation in class discussion, and one term paper (10 pages)

Tentative Schedule:
Week 1:
Issues in Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art
Art at the Crossroads: the Shanghai School and Lingnan School
Reading: Articles in A Century in Crisis: Introduction (Andrews and Spence); Innovations in Chinese Painting (Shan)

Reform and National Essence: The Debates about Art in the Early Republican Period
Reading: Articles in A Century in Crisis: Innovations in Chinese Painting (Chiu, Xue, Shen 80-95, Kao 146-161); Sullivan 5-35, 52-57.

Week 2:
China’s Seduction by the West: Modern Chinese Oil Painting in the 1920s and 1930s

China Roars: The Rise and Fall of the Avant-Garde Woodcut Movement;

Week 3:
Commercial Art and China’s Modernization
Reading: A Century in Crisis: 228-237; Andrews P & P: Chpt. 2-5; Sullivan, 129-150.

The Victory of Socialist Realism: Oil Painting and the New Guohua, 1950-1965
Week 4:
**Idol and Ideal: Art in the Cultural Revolution and Post-Mao Era**
Reading will be assigned in class.

**Reopening to the West: The New Wave Movement, 1984-1989**
Reading will be assigned in class.

Week 5:
**The New Cosmopolitan Era: Art in the 1990s and 2000s**
Reading will be assigned in class

**In-class Oral Presentations**

**REFERENCE BOOKS:**


