

# HISTORY OF LOVE: CHINESE ROMANCE IN TIME

GNDR\_ST 341 / ASIAN\_LC 200



This course focuses on the world of romance in traditional Chinese culture, with a special attention to plays and theatrical texts. Our aim shall be to engage the main discourses circulating about the experience of passion, love, and lust in narratives from the eighth century CE dynasty up until the 18th century (in their English translation). What

are the meanings attached to love by the changing authors and audiences in this span of time? What relationships existed between love and sex? And what about marriage? Did gender and sexual identity matter in questions of the heart, and if so, how? Taking a genealogical approach to the exploration of the tales of love in various genres and media, we will in turn address issues such as the place of romance, sentiment, and sentimentality in Chinese literature; the changing roles played by religion, societal and economic pressures; the relevance of gender in terms of authorship and readership; as well as by femininity, masculinity, sexuality and their discontents across various dynastic and historical changes and shifts, among other things. In addition to the primary sources, representative theoretical work in the field of Chinese literature will be incorporated as much as possible.

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TTh 11am-12:20pm  
Univ Hall 318