This course examines selected topics and issues of modern Chinese history, by closely analyzing novels and films. Film has played an influential role in modern Chinese society and culture and provides a special venue and perspective for studying modern Chinese history. Through readings, film screenings, lectures, and discussions, we trace several major developments in modern China, notably nationalism and social revolution, reform and modernization, women and gender, in the context of the evolving tension and continuity between tradition and modernity. We will pay particular attention to the evolving relationship between the state and the intellectuals, the social and economic change in rural society, and the fate and life of women in China’s long and continuous transformation from a traditional society to a modern society.