

## Paper Assignment #1: Analysis of a *Shidaiqu* of Your Choice

In 1-2 pages (300-600) words, write an analysis of a Chinese popular song from early twentieth-century Shanghai. Your essay should move beyond the descriptive (ex. “the song begins slow in the first verse, then gets faster in the second verse, then slows down again...”) to make an argument (ex. “although the lyrics are upbeat, the music is melancholy, reflecting the conflicted life of the sing-song girl...”), offering your reader a novel perspective on the piece. In formulating your approach, you might consider some of the following features: choice of instrumentation, style of vocals, tempo, form, dynamics, lyrics, mood, etc. (see “Things To Listen For” handout for even more possibilities). You may select one of the songs we have already discussed, but please take care not to replicate our classroom discussion. If you need some guidance on a song to select, please see me.

Your work will be evaluated primarily on the quality of its argument and supporting evidence, but mechanics and proper use of citations (where appropriate) will also be considered.

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