

AU professor to revisit China's May 4th Movement

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On May 4th 1919, students held massive protests to oppose the Beijing government and the Japanese occupation that occurred during World War I. Many prestigious U.S. newspapers such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the San Francisco Chronicle covered these protests. Now, during the spring term of 2003, Dr. Robyn Goodman, associate professor of communications at AU, will explore this news coverage and present her findings in an article for publication. No previous text has explored the issue of U.S. coverage of the May 4th Movement, although thousands of words have been written about the events that took place, noted Goodman. Goodman's research will include the three newspapers listed above primarily because of their renown in covering international issues. Together, they represent both coasts of the United States and will provide a relatively complete image of U.S. opinion at that time. While Goodman can easily collect articles from the New York Times and the Washington Post, as they are available at Herrick Library on campus, archival copies of the San Francisco Chronicle are available only at the San Francisco Public Library. To get them, Goodman will spend a week in San Francisco and another two or three weeks collecting articles from sources in Alfred. She hopes her article will provide "a clearer picture of how the U.S. press and society have viewed Chinese society over time and open a dialogue regarding what needs to be done to improve U.S. media coverage and U.S. society's views regarding Chinese citizens at home and abroad." Goodman has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the California State University at Chico, a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and a doctoral degree in journalism from Michigan State University. Her dissertation covered 10 years of news coverage of U.S.-China relations. She spent two years teaching Western journalism at the Beijing Foreign Studies University and witnessed the student protest and massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989.#####