Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature in Translation

Fall 2013

Time: MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am
Location: Anderson Hall 422

Instructor: Dr. Yun Zhu (yun.zhu@temple.edu)
Office: Anderson 351
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:55 pm – 1:55 pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on 20th- and 21st-century literature from China. Among the major themes of the course are socio-political and cultural upheaval and transformation, fiction and nation, and gender, race and class relations. Students will read representative literature of various genres (short stories, novels, drama, etc.). Selected documentaries and feature films will supplement the literary texts. The course will help familiarize students with major writers and with the cultural and historical contexts in which they produced their works.

The format of the course will be lecture-discussion. Each student will be required to give a presentation and submit five short essays to Blackboard Discussions. Both the midterm and the final exams will be composed of an essay section and a series of short-answer questions drawn from the course materials and lectures. A 5-7 page paper will be due in class on Wed. 11/27. The course will be conducted in English, and **no knowledge of Chinese language will be required.**

Course Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- acquire a basic familiarity with Chinese literature and cultural history of the recent two centuries;
- appreciate and enjoy the fun of literature, and deepen their understanding of the major genres and themes under discussion;
- practice and improve their reading, writing, and analytical skills;
- develop and communicate their own interpretations of modern and contemporary Chinese literary and cultural phenomena.
**Evaluation and Course Requirements**

Attendance & Participation 15%
Individual Presentation (10 minutes) 10%
Blackboard Discussions (150 Words x 5) 15%
Pop Quizzes 10%
Midterm Exam 15%
Final Exam 15%
Term Paper (5-7 Pages, Times New Roman 12, double-spaced) 20%

*Grades will be assigned as follows:*

- 92.5% and above: A
- 90-92.49%: A-
- 87.5-89.99%: B+
- 82.5-87.49%: B
- 80-82.49%: B-
- 77.5-79.99%: C+
- 72.5-77.49%: C
- 70-72.49%: C-
- 67.5-69.99%: D+
- 62.5-67.49%: D
- 60-62.49%: D-
- Below 60%: F

**Disabilities Statement**

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should both contact Disability Resources and Services (http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.html) and meet the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible.

**Honor Code**

Students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity and should avoid any form of dishonesty, including plagiarism (from books, internet sources, or other people’s works). Please refer to “Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities” at http://policies.temple.edu/PDF/99.pdf for information, and the university statement on plagiarism and cheating can be accessed at http://ww2.cis.temple.edu/cis166/plagiarism.htm. Please note that according to the statement “The penalty for plagiarism or cheating as a first offense is normally an "F" in the course in which the offense is committed and a report to the Dean. A subsequent offense may, in addition, be referred to the university disciplinary committee.”
Policy on Attendance and Participation

Much emphasis will be placed upon class participation, which includes timely attendance and active as well as constructive participation in class.

*Excused Absences:* The only excused absences are either those for which a student arranged for an absence three days or more in advance in order to observe a religious holiday or those for documented university-authorized absences.

*Unexcused Absences:* You will be allowed four unexcused absences. If you are sick or have a family emergency or have to attend to some other matter that keeps you from class, that absence will count as one of the four. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be automatically lowered half a grade. For example, a B+ under this policy would be lowered to a B.

*Tardiness:* Class begins on the hour. If you are not present and seated at the start of class, you will be counted as **absent**. Please also be informed that most pop-up quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and no makeup quizzes will be given except for prearranged absences to observe a religious holiday.

*Make-Up Exams:* Normally no makeup tests/exams will be allowed, unless with proper documentation and timely notice.

Preparation for Class

Students are expected to come to class prepared. For this purpose, it is likely that most students will have to spend 4.5-6 hours a week outside of class studying the required materials and working on the assignments. **Please bring the required readings with you (hard copy) to class; failures to do so will be counted as absences from class.** The recommended materials are only for those (especially presenters) looking for extra information. They are not required and will not be tested on.

Pop Quizzes:

Pop quizzes will be given from time to time at the start of a class meeting **without prior notice** to check students’ readiness for class. Most quizzes will consist of one or two questions about some specific (but not too detailed) content from the readings or films.

In cases when you do not know the answer to a day’s quiz questions, please still **turn in the answer sheet with your name on it.** Otherwise, you will be marked as absent for the day.
Presentation

Each student will give a 10 minute presentation based on the materials they have signed up for. The presentations are expected to provide contextual information, provoke critical thoughts, raise questions, and trigger class discussions. You are required to talk to the instructor (for suggested readings, etc.) when you prepare for your presentation.

Blackboard Reflections

Students will be assigned five 150-word reflections on the course materials to submit through Blackboard. The deadlines have been highlighted in the schedule. You are highly encouraged to write and post your reflections ahead of the deadlines to help with class discussions. Also, you are welcome to write “reflections upon reflections,” i.e., responses to others’ reflections, but these will not be counted or credited. We will discuss all the postings in class.

Term Paper

A 5-7 page term paper will be due in class on Wednesday, November 27th, 2013. In the process of developing your argument and writing your paper, you are required to meet the instructor at least twice (see the suggested timeline in the schedule) to discuss your paper project. A written paper proposal and an outline will be due respectively at these meetings. You are welcome to discuss early drafts with the instructor before final submission.

Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments (including papers) will be read and commented on, but every day of lateness will be penalized with a deduction of 20% from the points gained for the assignment.

Religious Holidays

If religious holidays prevent you from attending class or fulfilling course requirements on time, your absence will be excused and you may make up the missed work. However, you must inform the instructor within two weeks of the beginning of the semester – or three days before any holiday that fall within the first two weeks of class.

No Use of Electronic Devices Allowed in Class
* This syllabus is a guideline for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Please check your email/Blackboard for updates.

** All the required texts and films have been put on reserve at the library. For the required reading assignments, please **print out and bring the hard copies** with you to class.
Required Course Materials

All the required readings are on reserve in the library, and you can access them via the library website under “Reserves.”

Schedule

The “Obsession with China” & the Lure of the Modern

Mon. 8/26 Introduction

Wed. 8/28 In-Class Viewing & Discussion: Clips from *The Last Emperor* (1987, dir. Bernardo Bertolucci)

Fri. 8/30 In-Class Viewing & Discussion: Clips from *Shadow Magic* (2000, dir. Ann Hu)

Mon. 9/2 LABOR DAY HOLLIDAY – NO CLASS

Wed. 9/4 Required Reading: Excerpt from Liu E, *The Travels of Lao Can* (1903), Chapter One, pp. 9-17

Fri. 9/6 Required Reading: Excerpts from Qiu Jin, *Stones of the Jingwei Bird* (1905-1907), *Writing Women in Modern China*, 39-78

Mon. 9/9 Continued Discussion on Qiu Jin

Wed. 9/11 Required Reading: Lu Xun, “Diary of a Madman” (1918), *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun*, pp. 21-31

Fri. 9/13 Continued Discussion on “Diary of a Madman”

Mon. 9/16 Required Reading: Lu Xun, “The Real Story of Ah-Q” (1921), *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun*, pp. 79-123

Wed. 9/18 Continued Discussion on “The Real Story of Ah-Q”
* Recommended Reading: Lydia H. Liu, “Translating National Character: Lu Xun and Arthur Smith,” *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity – China, 1900-1937*, pp. 45-76

First Blackboard Reflection Due 12 Noon
Fri. 9/20  Required Reading: Yu Dafu, “Sinking” (1921), *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, pp. 31-55.


Wed. 9/25  Continued Discussion on Yu Dafu and Shi Zhecun

Fri. 9/27  Required Reading: Mao Dun, “Spring Silkworms” (1932), *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, pp. 56-73

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**Wartime Literature, 1937-1949**

Mon. 9/30  Required Reading: Ding Ling, “When I Was In Xia Village” (1940), *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, pp. 132-146

Wed. 10/2  Required Reading: Eileen Chang, “Love in a Fallen City” (1943), *Love in a Fallen City*, pp. 109-167

Fri. 10/4  Continued Discussion on Eileen Chang
**Second Blackboard Reflection Due 12 Noon**

Mon. 10/7  In-Class Viewing and Discussion: *Spring in A Small Town* (aka *Xiao cheng zhi chun* in Paley Library catalog, 1948, dir. Fei Mu)
* Recommended Reading: Carolyn FitzGerald, “Between Forgetting and the Repetition of Memory: Fei Mu’s Aesthetics of Desolation in *Spring in A Small Town*,” *Fragmenting Modernisms: Chinese Wartime Literature, Art, and Film, 1937-49*, 169-216

Wed. 10/9  Continued Discussion on Wartime Literature

Fri. 10/11  **Midterm**
The Maoist Period, 1949-1976

Mon. 10/14  Required Viewing: Crows and Sparrows (aka Wu ya yu ma que in Paley Library catalog, 1949, dir. Zheng Junli)

Wed. 10/16  Required Reading: Excerpts from Yang Mo, Song of Youth, Chapters 5&12 of Part 1, pp. 37-46 & 111-121

Fri. 10/18  Continued Discussion on Song of Youth

Third Blackboard Reflection Due 12 Noon

Stories from the “New Era”


Wed. 10/23  Required Reading: Zhang Jie, “Love Must Not Be Forgotten” (1979), The Vintage Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction, pp. 205-219

Fri. 10/25  Continued Discussion on “Love Must Not Be Forgotten”
* Recommended Reading: Lydia H. Liu, “Invention and Intervention: The Female Tradition in Modern Chinese Literature,” Gender Politics in Modern China: Writing and Feminism, pp. 33-57


Fri. 11/1  Continued Discussion on Mo Yan and the “Root Seeking” School  
**Fourth Blackboard Reflection Due 12 Noon**

Mon. 11/4  Required Reading: Gao Xingjian, “The Other Shore” (1986), *The Other Shore*, 1-44

Wed. 11/6  Continued Discussion on “The Other Shore”  
* Recommended Online Research: Yu Jian, Mou Sen, Jiang Yue, Cui Jian, and Their “The Other Shore” Projects


Mon. 11/11  Continued Discussion on Wang Shuo and the “Hooligan Literature”  

**By 12 noon today, you should have talked to Dr. Zhu about you term paper proposal.**

**Fifth Blackboard Reflection Due 12 Noon**

Mon. 11/18  Continued Discussion on Wang Xiaobo  
* Recommended Reading: Michael Berry, “Yunnan 1968,” *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film*, pp. 253-297

Fin-de-siècle and the New Millennium

**By 12 noon today, you should have talked to Dr. Zhu about you term paper outline.**
Fri. 11/22  Continued Discussion on Chun Sue  

Mon. 11/25  Required Reading: Excerpts from Mo Yan, Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out (2006), Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-19

Wed. 11/27  Required Reading: Excerpts from Mo Yan, Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out, Chapters 9-11, pp. 82-105  
**Term Paper Due in Class by 12 Noon & Blackboard SafeAssignment Submission by 11:59pm**

Fri. 11/29  THANKGIVING HOLLIDAY – NO CLASS

Mon. 12/2  Continued Discussion on Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out

Wed. 12/4  Wrap-Up

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**FINAL EXAM: Monday 12/9, 10:30-12:30**