

Spring 2022

HMMA 5003

Chinese Literary History

Instructor: Professor Shengqing Wu
Division of Humanities, HKUST

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Time and Classroom

Tuesday: 10:30am to 1:20pm; Zoom (or Room 5506 (lifts 25-26), later this semester)

Course Description

This course, taught in English, aims at familiarizing students with the history of Chinese literature from literary, historical and theoretical perspectives. Emphasis is on the recent scholarship of major genres in Chinese literary history and their interactions in the context of cultural tradition. The seminar will combine lecture and intense discussion, with regular student assignments. Students' active participation is expected.

Course Objective

Aims at building a sense of Chinese literary history in reading and discussing texts of different genres from early period to modern eras. The course will enhance students' ability of dealing with literature in generic, theoretical, and historical approaches. Topics covered include reexamination of the concept of literary history; early poetic tradition and manuscript culture; Tang-Song literature; Chinese novels through comparative perspectives; late Qing fiction and new narrative voices; translation and new approaches to literary studies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOS)

1. Enhancing students' critical thinking abilities and writing skills;
2. Gaining an overview of Chinese literary history and recent critical interest;
3. Mastering some fundamental concepts in literary and cultural studies;
4. Learning how to design a research project through a critically refreshing perspective.

Weekly Organization and Readings

Required and suggested readings are accessible through the course web page (Canvas) or put on reserve at the library. Lectures, students' presentations and discussions will alternate in class.

Assessment:

Attendance, Presentation, Discussion: 10% +5% (5% for excellent in-class performance)

Short response papers: 25%

One group project: 10%

One final Paper: 50%

Assignments:

Course Requirements:

All students must attend classes regularly and finish readings **before class**.

1. Writing a short response paper and post it online every OTHER week (one-two pages). I will send you a weekly email to remind you. Please post the response paper as word attachment (file name: surname name WK2) on Discussion column on Canvas, **Due 5pm Monday**.
2. Students will be asked to give one oral presentations on the reading materials. The oral presentation will not be graded.
3. Group research project on one of the key issues: 1) one major literary phenomenon; 2) one key literary concept; 4) canon formation of one major writer in history, etc.
4. Final paper. 8-12 pages for MA students. **Due 5pm on May 23 (Monday), 2022.**

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1

Feb. 8 Introduction to course & Deconstruction of the Notion of “literary history”
Selected readings from Hayden White’s *Tropics of Discourse*, *The Content of the Form*

WEEK 2

Feb. 15 The concept of “development” & canon formation

1. Prasenjit Duara: Introduction from *Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China* (U. of Chicago, 1995) (Canvas);
2. Andrew Jones: Introduction from *Developmental Fairy Tales: Evolutionary Thinking and Modern Chinese Culture* (Harvard, 2011)
3. John Guillory: Introduction from *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation* (Chicago UP, 1995) (parts)
胡適《中國白話文學史》；錢基博《中國現代文學史》

WEEK 3

Feb. 22 Key issues of Chinese literary theory

1. Stephen Owen: *Traditional Chinese Poetry and Poetics*, chap 1.
2. Lu Ji: *Wen Fu* (translated and annotated by Stephen Owen); Sikong Tu: *Ershi si shipping* (translated and annotated by Stephen Owen).
3. 陈世襄：《论中国抒情传统》；《原兴：兼论中国文学特质》
4. 王德威：《有情的历史：抒情传统与中国文学现代性》

WEEK 4

March 1. Chinese narrative in comparative perspectives

1. Stephen Owen, *The End of Chinese “Middle” Age* (parts)
2. Patrick Hanan, *The Chinese Vernacular Story* (parts)
3. 浦安迪《中國敘事學》
《聶隱娘》；《蔣興哥重會珍珠衫》 *Dream of Red Chamber* 紅樓夢, chap. 1-5.

WEEK 5

March 8 Chinese Fiction, Realism and Modernity

1. David Der-wei Wang: *Fin-de-siecle Splendor: Repressed Modernities of Late Qing Fiction* (1-52).
2. Marston Anderson: *Limits of Realism* Chap1
恨海 and Short stories by Lu Xun

WEEK 6

March 15 Translation and World Literature

1. Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practices* (Introduction)
2. Eliot Weinberger, selections from *Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei: How a Chinese Poem is Translated* (Moyer Bell Limited, 1987)
3. 嚴復《天演論》序；林紓《茶花女》

WEEK 7

March 22. New approaches to literary studies: gender studies

1. Judith Butler: *Body that Matters* (Intro and chap 1)
 2. Grace Fong: "Persona and Mask in the Song lyric (ci)"
 3. Rey Chow: *Women and Chinese Modernity* (chap 3 on Feminine Detail)
- Stories by Lin Shuhua and Xiao Hong

WEEK 8

March 29. New approaches to literary studies: Studies of Emotions

1. Raymond Williams on "Structure of Feelings"
 2. William Reddy: *The Navigation of Feeling* (Cambridge, 2001), part 1.
 3. Haiyan Lee: *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950*. Stanford UP, 2006, Introduction.
- 鴛鴦小說、張愛玲

Week 9 April 5 No class

WEEK 10

April 12. Modern Chinese poetry and Poetics

- 張曼儀等，《現代中國詩選 1917-1949，導論》（香港：香港大學出版社、香港中文大學出版社，1974）
- 胡適，《文學改良芻議》
- Wu Shengqing, *Modern Archaics: Continuity and Innovation in the Chinese Lyric Tradition, 1900-1937* (Introduction)
- Poems by Hu Shi, Bian Zhilin, Mu Dan and others.

WEEK 11

April 19 Sinophone Literature

- Shu-mei Shih, Chien-hsin Tsai, and Brian Bernards, eds. 2013. *Sinophone Studies: A Critical Reader*. New York: Columbia University Press. "Introduction: What is Sinophone Studies?" By Shu-mei Shih, pp. 1-16;
- 黃錦樹：這樣的「華語語系」論可以休矣！——史書美的「反離散」到底在反甚麼？
- 朱天文《世紀末的華麗》、李永平《雨雪霏霏》、西西《浮城誌異》

WEEK 12 April 30 (No class)

WEEK 12

April 26 Diseases, Illness and Suffering in Chinese Literature

Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor* (1978)

Optional reading: Howard Choy: "Introduction" in *Discourses of Diseases*

魯迅《藥》、余華《活著》、莫言《蛙》、閻連科《丁莊夢》

WEEK 13

May 3. From *Taohua yuan* to Utopia in Chinese Literature

Ruth Levitas, "Introduction" in *The Concept of Utopia*, New York: Philip Allan, 1990, pp. 1-8.

Zhang Longxi, "The Utopian Vision, East and West", *Utopian Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (2002), pp. 1-20.

Works by Han Song, Hao Jingfang, Chen Qiufan and others.

WEEK 14

May 10. Concluding remarks & presentation of group projects