

HUMA 3202

Chinese Creative Writing—Reading Literary Classics and Writing Essays

Instructor: Professor Luo Yijun 駱以軍

Course Description

This course will introduce selective Western and Chinese literary classics and basic literary theories. Through discussing literature's relationships with nature, religion, politics, morality, self, culture, arts, philosophy, and history, this course not only ushers students into the fundamental literary world, but also aims at cultivating students' inner poetics ("beautiful soul"), aesthetic judgment ("bright eyes") and integrity of personality, and enhancing student's creative writing ability.

This class provides students with a forum for extended practice in the art of creative writing. It is designed for students who have little or no previous experience writing literary texts in a particular genre. Introductory workshops introduce students to a variety of technical and imaginative concerns through exercises, readings, and discussions. In addition to weekly reading literary classics, this course will especially focus on writing short stories in Chinese.

Assessment:

Attendance and discussion: 10%

Individual Presentation: 20%

Pop-quizzes: 20%

Writing assignments: 20%

Final paper: 30%

Weekly Organization, Screenings and Readings

Required and suggested readings and videos are put on reserve in the library or accessible on the LMES teaching website. This course includes lectures, screenings, and students' discussions. Students are also required to practice their Chinese writing skill in class.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge/Content Related:

ILO 1 – Through guidance in a small classroom setting, students will learn to interpret and write short fictions.

Academic Skills/Competencies:

ILO 2 – By reading world literary classics and Chinese literary classics, students will understand the essence of literary creative writing.

Other Learning Outcomes:

ILO 3 – Through hands on coaching sessions, students will discover and express their own creativity in the genre of short stories.

駱以軍老師的課程安排

Week 1 發光的房間

我會先說一個故事，然後引張愛玲小說〈留情〉，波赫士小說〈不為人知的奇蹟〉，談什麼是極限的光，某個神秘的時刻，如何非啟動小說書寫，無法照見的，非平凡經驗。作為第一堂課。最後一小時讓同學們講他們各自會遇見的，這種文學光燄照亮的經驗。

Week 2 小說中的夢

我會說幾個故事，談夢境對小說敘事的可能性。並講電影〈銀翼殺手〉，〈AI 人工智能〉。最後一小時，請同學書寫他們的夢

Week 3 小說中的人物設定

這堂課我會讓同學們玩一個〈三張小紙條〉的遊戲 我會讓他們各設計一個人物，我隨意抽人，用其中幾個各自無關的他們給的人物，現場集體創作，形成一篇小說

Week 4 小說中的空間

我會作一個演講，之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 5 小說中的異空間

我會作一個演講，之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 6 小說中的死亡

我會以馬奎斯的〈百年孤寂〉為本，探討小說中關於死亡的描寫

之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 7 啟蒙小說

我會播放俄國電影〈歸鄉〉

並以〈麥田補手〉為本，探討啟蒙小說

Week 8 小說中的精神病院

以張愛玲小說〈雷封塔〉為例

探討諸如大江健三郎小說，或〈咆哮山莊〉這類封禁，古堡小說的書寫。

之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 9 誤解的詞

導讀昆德拉〈生命中不能承受之輕〉，探討小說中字詞概念的差異思考。

之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 10 小說中的愛情、背叛、猜疑

以葛林〈愛情的盡頭〉為本，探討小說中的愛情

之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 11 小說中的妖怪

以莫言幾個短篇，以及〈檀香刑〉，談論中國小說中的某些怪物意象

Week 12 小說中的河

以沈從文〈湘行散記〉，房慧真〈河流〉

談論某種較長鏡頭的小說場面練習

之後一小時讓同學練習

Week 13 說不完的故事

我會作一場演講

之後一小時讓同學討論這門課的心得

Final Exam

Final paper due