

Fall 2026

HUMA 5340

Modern Chinese Literary Criticism (subject to change)

Instructor: Professor Shengqing Wu

Division of Humanities, HKUST

Office: Room 2380, Academic Bldg; Office phone: (852) 2358-8981

E-mail: hmswu@ust.hk; Office hours: 10:00am-1:00pm, Friday and by appointment

Time and Classroom

Friday: 3:00pm to 5:50pm

Classroom:

Course Description

This course, taught in Chinese, is designed to introduce students to the history of Chinese literature and literary criticism from new perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on reconstructing and interpreting Chinese literary history, the lyrical tradition, and approaches to Chinese literature from comparative and theoretical perspectives. The seminar will combine lecture and intensive discussion with regular student assignments. Active student participation is expected.

Course Objective

The course will enhance students' ability to engage with literature in generic, theoretical, and historical approaches. Topics include a review of key concepts in literary history, Chinese narrative in comparative perspective, Chinese lyricism, Chinese poetry in various media, 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 issues;
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% +10% (10% for excellent in-class performance)

Short response papers: 20%

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 the Discussion column on Canvas, **Due 5pm Thursday**.
2. Students will be asked to give one or two oral presentations on the reading materials. The oral presentation will not be graded.
3. Group research project
4. Final paper. 8000-10,000 Chinese characters for MPhil and PhD Students, 5000-6000 Chinese characters for MA students. 12-15 page double-spaced paper in English is also acceptable. AI policies will be announced later. **Due 5pm on December 21 (Monday), 2026.**

Weekly Schedule (tentative)

WEEK 1

Sept. 4 文學、文學史、文學批評 Introduction to course & Deconstruction of the Notion of *wenxue* and “literary history”
Selected readings from Hayden White’s *Tropics of Discourse*, *The Content of the Form*

WEEK 2 Sept 11 (NO class)

文學研究中關鍵詞

Raymond Williams, *Keywords* ; 金觀濤、劉青峰：〈隱藏在關鍵詞中的歷史世界〉
Attending the conference “情動中國” on Sept 11 and 12.

WEEK 3

Sept. 18 文學研究中關鍵詞

Attending the talk by Prof. Wu Hung on the 23th and Prof. Judith Zeitlin on the 24th.

WEEK 4

Sept 25 文學史的現代書寫

Prasenjit Duara: Introduction from *Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China* (U. of Chicago, 1995) ; 胡適《中國白話文學史》; 錢基博《中國現代文學史》; 胡蘭成《中國文學史話》

WEEK 5

Oct. 2 文學、小說概念的變遷

梁啟超, 《小說與群治的關係》等
Ted Hutters: *Bring the World Home* Chap 3 & 4

WEEK 6

Oct. 9 “悲”的現代批評觀

王國維《紅樓夢評論》；魯迅《摩羅詩力說》

WEEK 7

Oct. 16 比較視野下的中國小說

Andrew Plakes: *Archetype and Allegory in the Dream of the Red Chamber* ; Marston Anderson: *Limits of Realism* Chap1; David Der-wei Wang: *Fin-de-siecle Splendor: Repressed Modernities of Late Qing Fiction* (1-52).

WEEK 8

Oct. 23 抒情與情動、“抒情傳統”：朱自清、朱光潛、宗白華、方東美

朱自清，《詩言志辨》；朱光潛《論詩》；宗白華《美學與意境》；方東美《生生之美》

WEEK 9

Oct. 30 抒情與情動、“抒情傳統” II：陳世襄、高友工等

陳世襄：《論中國抒情傳統》；《原興：兼論中國文學特質》；王德威：《有情的歷史：抒情傳統與中國文學現代性》

WEEK 10

Nov. 6 抒情與情動、現代性

Raymond Williams on “Structure of Feelings”; William Reddy: *The Navigation of Feeling* (Cambridge, 2001), part 1; Haiyan Lee: *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950* (Introduction).

WEEK 11

Nov. 13. 詩書畫與媒介

約翰·伯格，《觀看的方式》，吳莉君譯，麥田出版社 2005 年，第一章，頁 8-41；錢鍾書，《中國詩與中國畫》，收入《七綴集》，香港天地圖書公司，1990 年，頁 2-34；Sturken, Marita & Lisa Cartwright. *Practices of Looking. An Introduction to Visual Culture*, Oxford University Press, 2001; Werner Wolf, “Intermediality”.

WEEK 12

Nov. 20 文學與翻譯

錢鍾書，《林紓的翻譯》；Lydia Liu: Introduction from *Translingual Practices*; Eliot Weinberger: selections from *Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei: How a Chinese Poem is Translated* (Moyer Bell Limited, 1987)

WEEK 13

Nov. 27 concluding remarks & presentation of group projects