

HUMA5440 Contemporary Chinese Fiction

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Course Description

This class will be a close reading of Western and contemporary Chinese literary masterpieces as well as cultivating students' ability in innovative fictional writing. The goal for this class is to get familiar with selective Western and Chinese masterpieces and learn how to write a short story or a long essay on your own in addition to writing a critical essay. It will be designed as a PG creative writing course, not only exploring styles, structures, and narratives of novels, but also involving students in the form of seminar discussions and in-class writing. Unlike the traditional literary courses that focus on lectures and literary theories, this class encourages students to read, appreciate, and critique Western and Chinese novels, and engage in innovative writing of fiction and essay.

Grading

Attendance, Participation, Discussion	15%
Pop quizzes on readings	15%
In-class writing practice and presentations	20%
Critical essay	25%
Final short novel	35%

Class Requirements:

Attendance and in---class participation are weighed heavily in this course. Students are expected to complete the reading assignment PRIOR to coming to class and be ready to discuss and engage in class. If no participation effort is made in class, attendance alone cannot guarantee a high mark for this portion of your grade.

Class participation is expected since talking with fellow students is the best way to learn. So earn your good grade the fun way—start and keep talking in class! Don't be afraid to make mistakes, but you do need to show that you are familiar with the readings and that you have seriously thought about the texts. **Be prepared and read before class.** **Pop quizzes** will be given from time to time in class without prior notice. The quiz usually consists of 5-10 questions only and would not take more than 15 minutes to complete.

In-class writing practice is required either on papers or on your own computer, but you are also allowed to continue to write or revise after the class. We will also share some of

your writings in the class with other classmates.

Individual and group presentations are required in the class.

A critical essay is required at the end of the semester. You can choose your own topic about a literary criticism of a writer and his/her novels.

Final short novel must be an innovative creative writing piece, which can demonstrate your writing skills in terms of language, structure, style, and narratology.

Class Rules:

NO plagiarism!!! – This is taken VERY seriously. Violations (including using online device such as Google translation) will result in a ZERO on your grade.

No use of mobile phone – i.e. no talking, texting, emailing, or web browsing on your mobile phone. Please put your phone on silent mode in class. If constant usage is found or a message/ring tone is heard, your phone will be taken away until the class ends.

Listening etiquette – please listen carefully while someone is talking.

Speaking etiquette – please allow others to finish their sentence before you offer yours.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOS)

1. Enhancing students' creative writing skills;
2. Gaining an overview of contemporary Chinese novels and recent critical interest;
3. Mastering some fundamental concepts in literary and cultural studies;
4. Learning how to read both Western and Chinese literary classics;
5. Improving students' ability of writing a literary critical essay.

课程安排:

分两个层面。均以作品例。

第一个层面。从总体上讲述写作所需要的视野和价值立场。分析小说写作中的叙事、空间和时间的关系。进入文学内部，着重于从文学本质入手，分析文学写作中的一些基本问题。比如文学中现实与虚构之间的关系、时间、空间，叙事，文体，结构等。让学生能够对小说写作有最基本的把握。

第二个层面。进行细部训练。从写作者所应具备的能力入手，如观察力、感受力和想象力，培养写作的感觉和方向。以经典文学中的片断为例，分析其结构、语言和技巧，对学生进行非常具体的写作训练。

在课余时间，请学生观看大陆著名导演贾樟柯的电影《小武》，讨论小武的形象、导演的刻划及电影中的日常生活情景，以视觉化的方式对学生进行观察力的训练，旨在提高学生观察生活和理解生活的能力。要求学生根据其中一个片断，写一篇记叙性文章。

阅读书目：

课堂上所提及的经典篇目作为学生的积累，可以在课余时间慢慢阅读。

需要在课前阅读的必讀小說則长篇泛读，短篇精读

Class Schedule (Subjected to change):

Week 1

介紹課程安排

福樓拜《包法利夫人》（選讀）

Week 2

短篇小說精品

博爾赫斯《南方》《環形廢墟》《小徑分岔的花園》

《永生》《神的文字》《阿萊夫》

莫言《透明的紅蘿蔔》《黑孩》

Week 3

文學與魔幻

余華《十八歲出門遠行》《1986》《古典愛情》

莫言《酒國》（選讀），閻連科《受活》（選讀）

加西亚·马尔克斯《百年孤獨》（選讀）

薩曼·魯西迪《午夜之子》（選讀）

奧爾加·托卡爾丘克《太古和其他的時間》（選讀）

Week 4

文學與良心寫作

遠藤周作《沈默》（選讀），《深河》（必讀）
格雷厄姆·格林《权力与荣耀》（選讀）
陀思妥耶夫斯基《卡拉馬佐夫兄弟》（選讀）

Week 5

余華《活著》（長篇）。（關注小說中的敘事人）
福克納《喧嘩與躁動》（長篇）。（小說中的“我”是誰？）
高行健《靈山》（長篇）。（文中的“你”）
魯迅《狂人日記》（短篇）
余華《黃昏里的男孩》（短篇）

Week 6

沈從文《丈夫》
廢名《橋》
索爾·貝婁《晃來晃去的人》（選讀）
福克納《我彌留之際》

Week 7 觀察力

《紅樓夢》中關於黛玉初到賈府王熙鳳出場的章節（第三回）和劉姥
姥進大觀園的章節（第四十回）
海明威《白象似的群山》（短篇）
張愛玲《中國的日夜》

Week 8 感受與想像

馬爾克斯《禮拜二午睡時刻》《巨翅老人》《世界上最漂亮的溺水
者》（短篇）
閻連科《年月日》（中篇）
福克納《愛米麗的玫瑰花》（短篇）

胡利奧·科塔薩爾《克拉小姐》（短篇）

Week 9 女性的寫作

西西《浮城誌異》

維吉尼亞·伍爾夫《奧蘭多》《到燈塔去》（選讀）

遲子健《霧夜牛欄》

韓江《素食者》

奧爾加·托卡爾丘克《雲遊》（選讀）《衣櫃》

Week 10

佩索阿《惘然集》

菲利普·福雷斯特《然而》

布魯諾·舒爾茨《沙漏做招牌的療養院》《鳥》《蟑螂》《死季》
《父親的最後一次逃亡》

Week 11

阿城的《樹王》《棋王》《孩子王》

汪曾祺《受戒》《大淩紀事》

Week 12 Student Presentation

Week 13 Student Presentation