HMMA 5003 Chinese Literary History

Instructor: Huan Jin
Class Time: Monday 9:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m.

Course description:
This course 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.

Course Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify, explain and use cultural concepts and literary theories.
2. Analyze significant literary phenomena and texts.
3. Analyze Chinese literature and culture in a global and cross-cultural comparative perspective based on the knowledge and skills of the Humanities from the program.
4. Conduct original cultural research and participate effectively in project teams using an enhanced knowledge of Chinese literature gained from the course.

Requirements:
1. Attendance, participation, and weekly response (30%)
You are expected to attend lectures and tutorial presentations. Please join the lectures via the “Zoom” tab in Canvas at least 5 minutes prior to start time. Join with cameras on and muted microphones. Please be mindful about where you are focusing your attention. There will be “cold calls”.
Starting from WEEK 3, you are also expected to respond to one of the prompts for the next lecture by 7 p.m. every Sunday (the first response is due on February 19). Please do so by replying to the thread of the week in the “Discussion” forum on Canvas. The posting should be around 200-250 words, with a focus on the text/issues under discussion for the relevant week.
Class participation will be calculated and counted towards the final grade.

2. Tutorial presentation (30%)
Students will form groups of 5-6 people to present on one or two texts written by one of the authors we examine in this class. The topic needs to fall under one of our weekly themes. You may find your group in "People_Tutorial Presentation Group" on Canvas. Collaboration among group members is important. The audience should be prepared to comment on the tutorial presentation. Make sure to submit the powerpoint of your presentation, if you use any, by 7 p.m. of the Saturday before the week of your presentation.

3. Final paper/ creative project (40%)
Length: 8-12 page, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font. Please follow Chicago Manual of Style.
Write an 8-12 page research paper on a topic of your choice. You must formulate an argument based on AT LEAST two texts read this semester. You must also engage with AT LEAST two scholarly articles/chapters already available on your topic, in order to distinguish your individual contribution from what already exists.

1. Final Paper Topic and 200-Word Abstract Due 3/31 (Friday) @ 8 p.m.
2. Final Paper Outline Due, 4/14 (Friday) @ 8pm (In the following week sign up for Office hours for feedback)
3. Final Paper – DUE MAY 14 (Sunday) @ NOON.
Late papers will be penalized with one grade-step deduction for each day it is late (i.e., an “A” paper will become an “A-” after one day, a “B+” after two, and so on) barring demonstrated, exceptional circumstances.

Readings: All reading materials could be found on the course website. The medium of instruction for this course is English.

Grading:
Attendance, participation, and weekly response 30%
Tutorial presentation, 30%
Final paper/creative project, 40%
** This syllabus is subject to changes.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Feb 6 WEEK 1 – The Beginning of Modern Chinese Literature?
Introduction + Historical Context
Wu Jianren, Sea of Regret

Feb 13 WEEK 2 — Enlightening China
Lu Xun, “Diary of a Madman,” “Preface” in Call to Arm, “Medicine”
Yu Dafu, “Sinking”

Suggested Readings:
• Leo Ou-fan Lee, “The Loner and the Crowd” (CH4), Voice From the Iron House: A Study of Lu Xun
• Kirk Denton, “The distant Shore: Nationalism in Yu Dafu’s ‘Sinking’”

Feb 20 WEEK 3 – The Woman Problem
Lu Xun, “What Happens After Nora Leaves Home?” (1923)
Ding Ling, “Miss Sophie’s Diary” (1927)
Ling Shuhua, “Embroidered Pillows,” “Intoxicated”

Suggest Readings:
• Rey Chow, “Virtuous Transactions: A Reading of Three Stories by Ling Shuhua,” Modern Chinese Literature 4(1/2) (Spring & Fall, 1988), pp. 71-86.

Feb 27 WEEK 4 – Shanghai Modern
Mao Dun, Midnight, chapter 1
Mu Shiyi, “Five in a Nightclub”
Eileen Chang, “The Golden Cangue,” “Sealed Off”
Required Viewing: New Woman, dir. Cai Chusheng (1935) (Film)

Suggest Readings:


**Mar 6 WEEK 5 – An Unlikely Lyricism vs. Socialist Realism**

Shen Congwen, *Border Town*, “Xiaoxiao” “The Husband”

Mao Dun, “Spring Silkworms,” Xiao Hong, “Hands”

Suggest Readings:


**Mar 13 WEEK 6 – A Literature for the People**

Mao Zedong, “Talks at the Yan’an Forum on Literature and Art”

Zhao Shuli, “Little Blackie Gets Married”

Ding Ling, “When I Was in Xia Village”

Suggested Readings:


**Mar 20 WEEK 7 – Promises and Discontent in the Maoist Regime**

Ding Ling, “Thoughts on March 8 (Women’s Day)”

Zong Pu, “Red Beans”
Zhang Jie, “Love Must Not Be Forgotten”

Suggested Readings:
- Lai-fong Leung, “In Search of Love and Self: the Image of Young Female Intellectuals in post-Mao Women’s Fiction”

Mar 27 WEEK 8 – Revolutionary Melodrama
The Story of the Red Lantern (excerpts)
Theory of Three Prominences
Jiang Qing, “Revolutionary Opera”

Screening in class:
- Xie Jin, Red Detachment of Women Soldiers (clips)
- Cheng Yin, The Story of the Red Lantern (clips)
- Michelangelo Antonioni, Chung Kuo (clips)

Suggested Readings:

Final Paper Topic and 200-Word Abstract Due 3/31 (Friday) @ 8 p.m.

Apr 3 WEEK 9– Cultural Revolution Nightmares
Acheng, The King of Children
Cui Jian, (music) “I have nothing,” “A Piece of Red Cloth” on YouTube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8UPST1ZKSw&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYwsPt854Xo&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZynRPygYA&feature=related
Yu Hua, “On the Road at Eighteen”, Mo Yan, “Iron Child”
Suggested Viewing: To Live (1994, Dir. Zhang Yimou)

Suggested Readings:

**Apr 10 WEEK 10 Midterm Break**

**Final Paper Outline Due, 4/14 (Friday) @ 8pm**

**Apr 17 WEEK 11– Chinese Diaspora in Global Context**

**Suggested Readings:**

**Apr 24 WEEK 12 – Tutorial Presentation**

**May 8 WEEK 13– Tutorial Presentation**

**Final Paper– DUE MAY 14 (Sunday) @ NOON.**