



The Beijing Center

北京中国学中心

Modern Chinese Literature in Chinese CHIN 341

Accreditation through Loyola University Chicago

Please Note: *This is a sample syllabus, subject to change. Students will receive the updated syllabus and textbook list prior to the start of each semester.*

Course Number: CHIN 341

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Course Description

This course is a close reading of the important works of some great modern Chinese writers and poets, such as Lu Xun, Xu Zhimo, Shen Congwen, Chang Eileen, Yu Hua, and the two Nobel prize winners Gao Xingjian and Mo Yan. They represent the development and the changes of the modern Chinese literature from 1918 to the present. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own ideas of the main aesthetic characteristics of the Chinese literature in the 20th century, as well as its historical and social background, and be informed of one of the important sides of the modern Chinese culture. With the close reading, students will develop their ability of reading, understanding and criticizing the original Chinese literary work. Students will greatly expand their Chinese vocabularies, especially the literary ones, and develop their skill in writing comments on literary works.

Course Outcomes

Lectures, readings, paper assignments, and discussions are designed to help you develop the skills to:

- Think aesthetically, read critically, and write and speak persuasively in Chinese
- Connect and integrate aesthetical appreciations and cultural understandings of the modern Chinese literature, and grasp the styles and creative skills of different

- Chinese poets and writers in their original Chinese
- Develop the skill of writing literary criticism in Chinese
 - Develop the practice of reading original Chinese literary texts within their peculiar Chinese social, historical, cultural and mental contexts

Attendance Policy

Only valid medical or family emergencies qualify as an absence, and documentation of the same must be presented to the professor no later than the next class meeting. All other absences are considered to be unexcused. Unexcused absences will affect your grade (see below). Arriving more than 10 minutes late for any three classes will cumulatively count as one unexcused absence, while arriving 30 minutes late for any class will count as an unexcused absence.

Penalties for unexcused absences:

- 1 absence – class participation grade drops one full letter grade (example: A- to B-)
- 2 absences – class participation grade drops two full letter grades
- 3 absences – class participation grade drops three full letter grades
- 4 or more absences – class participation grade is a failing one

Any absence, whether excused or not, will require catch-up reading.

Academic Honesty Statement

Please see the following link, and read the text carefully:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Assessment

Class Participation and Attendance 20%

Students are expected to read all assignments and participate in class discussions. A short written assignment is due at the end of every class. Students should include one paragraph summarizing the main argument for each reading, as well as a paragraph expressing the student's own critical analysis.

Class Presentation 10%

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

Readings

Required Texts: (all in Chinese, purchased in China)

一、诗歌:(2周)

- 1、胡适:《老鸦》
- 2、郭沫若:《天狗》
- 3、戴望舒:《雨巷》
- 4、徐志摩:《再别康桥》;《沙扬娜拉》
- 5、艾青:《手推车》
- 6、北岛:《是的,昨天》

二、戏剧:(1周)

高行健:《车站》(节选)

三、小说:(10周)

- 1、鲁迅:《孔乙己》(节选)
- 2、张爱玲:《封锁》(节选)
- 3、沈从文:《萧萧》(节选)
- 4、残雪:《山上的小屋》(节选)
- 5、余华:《十八岁出门》(节选)
- 6、莫言:《生死疲劳》(节选);《蛙》(节选)

On Reserve at the TBC Library

1. Lu, Xun: Selected Works, vol. I, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1956
2. Shen Congwen: Imperfect Paradise, University of Hawaii Press, 1995
3. Chang, Eileen: The Rice-Sprout Song, University of California Press, 1955
4. Wang, Jing(ed.): China's Avant-garde Fiction, Duke University Press, 1998
5. Howard Goldblatt: Chairman Mao Would Not Be Amused: Fiction from Today's China, Grove Press, 1995
6. Mo Yan, Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out, trans. Howard Goldblatt, Skyhorse Publishing Inc., 2012

Class Schedule

Class 1:

1. Class Introduction
2. A short introduction to the historical and cultural background of the development of the modern Chinese literature
3. A short introduction to the ideological, emotional and artistic features of the modern Chinese literature

4. Section of Poetry (1) : 胡适:《老鸦》、郭沫若:《天狗》、戴望舒:《雨巷》

Questions:

1. 老鸦象征什么(What does the raven symbolize)?
 2. 天狗是什么 (What is a celestial dog)?天狗代表一种什么力量(What a force does it represent)?
 - 3.雨巷是什么样一种意境(What an artistic conception does the rainy ally create)? 其中包含怎样的象征主义(What kind of symbolism it contains)?
5. Read for next session: Section of Poetry: 徐志摩《再别康桥》、《沙扬娜拉》，艾青《手推车》，北岛《是的，昨天》。

Class 2:

- Section of Poetry (2) : 徐志摩《再别康桥》、《沙扬娜拉》，艾青《手推车》，北岛《是的，昨天》
- Questions:
 1. 徐志摩对康桥有如何的深情(How deep is Xu Zhimo's feeling for Cambridge)?请举例说明(Please tell the particulars)
 2. 如何理解《沙扬娜拉》(How to understand "Sayonara")?
 3. 手推车的象征意义是什么 (What is the symbolic meaning of the handcart)?
 4. 《是的，昨天》究竟 要表达什么样的意思(What does "Yes, Yesterday" want to tell us)?
- Read for next session: Section of Drama: 高行键《车站》(节选)

Class 3:

- Section of Drama: 高行键《车站》(节选)
- Questions:
 1. 说一说《车站》里的现实和荒诞(Please say something about the reality and the absurdities in the Bus Stop)
 2. 为什么所有的荒诞都在这个车站上(Why all absurdities are concentrated on the bus stop)?
- Read for next session: Fiction (1): 鲁迅《孔乙己》(1)

Class 4:

- FIRST PAPER DUE (on modern Chinese poetry or focusing on a poem)
- Fiction (1) 鲁迅《孔乙己》(1)
- Questions:
 1. 为什么作品以一个小孩的视角来看孔乙己(Why the story uses the perspective of a boy to see Kong Yiji)?
 2. 在孔乙己身上如何体现出鲁迅的文化批评(How does Lu Xun apply his cultural criticism to Kong Yiji)?
- Read: Fiction (2): 鲁迅《孔乙己》(1)

Class 5:

- Fiction (2): 鲁迅《孔乙己》(2)
- Questions:
 1. 叙事者对孔乙己的态度如何(What's the attitude of the narrator to Kong Yiji)?
 2. 孔乙己是中国旧教育体制的牺牲品吗(Is Kong Yiji a victim of the old educational system in China)?
- Read: Fiction (3): 张爱玲《封锁》(1), from beginning to the end of the third passage on the left, p.12.

Class 6:

- Fiction (3): 张爱玲《封锁》(1)
- Questions:
 1. 一开头关于电车的描写有什么意义(What is the meaning of description of tramcar at the beginning)?
 2. 你从关于吕宗桢和吴翠远的描写中看到了什么(What have you seen from the descriptions about Lu Zongzhen and Wu Cuiyuan)?
 3. 吕宗桢出于什么动机开始挑逗吴翠远 (What motivates Lu Zongzhen to flirt with Wu Cuiyuan)?
- Read: Fiction (4): 张爱玲《封锁》(2)

Class 7:

- Fiction (4): 张爱玲《封锁》(2)
- Questions:
 1. 吕宗桢是如何接近吴翠远的(How does Lu Zongzhen approach Wu Cuiyuan)?
 2. 作品的结局有何意义(What is the meaning in the ending of the story)?
 3. 作品反映了作者怎样的人生哲学(What is author's outlook on life that is reflected in the story)?
- Read: Fiction (6): 沈从文《萧萧》(1)

Class 8:

- Fiction (6): 沈从文《萧萧》(1)
- Questions:
 1. 萧萧是怎样的一个“妻子”(What kind of a “wife” is Xiaoxiao)?
 2. 如何看出萧萧处于一个新旧交替的时代(Where can you see Xiaoxiao's situation in a transition between the old and the new)?
- Read: Fiction (7): 沈从文《萧萧》(2)

Class 9:

- SECOND PAPER DUE (on a writer or a short story)
- Fiction (7): 沈从文《萧萧》(2)
- Questions:
 1. 读了《萧萧》以后, 你对文化多样性有怎样的思考(What's your reflection on

the cultural diversity after reading “Xiaoxiao”)?

2. 谈谈你对 沈从文写作风格的看法(Please tell of your opinion about Shen Congwen’s writing style)?
- Read: Fiction (8): 残雪 《山上的小屋》

Class 10:

- Fiction (8): 残雪 《山上的小屋》
- Questions:
 1. 文中的抽屉有什么意义(What’s the meaning of the drawer in the text)?
 2. 你在作品中看到多少先锋派的特征(How many characteristics of avant-garde have you found in the text)?
- Read: Fiction (9): 余华 《十八岁出远门》

Class 11:

- Fiction (9): 余华 《十八岁出远门》
- Questions:
 1. 主人公第一次出远门有什么经历(What experiences does the protagonist have when he is on the road for the first time)?
 2. 请说一说主人公的正义感(Please tell about the sense of justice in the protagonist)?
 3. 如何理解家庭教育中的道德观与社会中道德缺失的冲突(How to understand the conflicts between the moral education in family and the lack of morality in society)?
 4. 作品对了解当代中国社会有何帮助(How does the story help you to understand the contemporary Chinese society)?
- Read: Fiction (10) :莫言 《生死疲劳》

Class 12:

- Fiction (10): 莫言 《生死疲劳》
- Questions:
 1. 莫言为什么要写拟人化的动物 (Why Mo Yan writes about personified animals)?
 2. 莫言为他的故事设置了什么样的现实背景(Mo Yan sets what kind of realistic background for his story)?
- Read: Fiction (11)

Class 13:

- FINAL PAPER DUE (on comparative topic in modern Chinese literature)
- Fiction (11): 莫言 《蛙》
- Questions:
 1. 《蛙》主要在讨论什么问题(What is the Frog talking about)?
 2. 你在《蛙》的字里行间看到了什么深刻含义(What have you seen between the lines of the Frog)?