EALL 363B  Syllabus

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
FALL Semester 2015

Time: MWF 1:30 - 2:20 pm  Classroom: Moore 205
Prof. Yun Peng  Office hours: MW 4:00-5:00
Email: pengy@hawaii.edu  Office: Moore Hall 363

EALL 363 B 001 Twentieth-Century Chinese Literature and Culture, 1919–1949

DESCRIPTION
This upper-level undergraduate course is a survey of Chinese literature in the first half of the twentieth century. The materials are organized in a roughly chronological order, with emphasis on recurring themes and motifs. The guiding question is the way in which literature engages the twentieth-century Chinese experience. Students will gain an understanding of the main issues and broad trends, while also becoming attuned to the dialogic nature of writing. Through close reading exercises and discussions, students will also acquire basic skills that allow them to formulate historically informed and formally attentive interpretations of modern Chinese texts. The class will be conducted in seminar style, with an emphasis on interactive discussions supplemented by lectures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will

• Be familiar with major literary motifs, stylistic features, and cultural themes of the period surveyed.
• Acquire skills for in-depth literary analysis through practice.
• Be able to draw critical connections between literary texts and their historical contexts.
• Be able to demonstrate the above abilities in writing.

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSE
This course has been approved as writing-intensive (WI) and you will receive a WI credit upon successful completion of the course requirements.

To help you fulfill the writing-intensive component of the requirement, I will provide a handout on writing resources, and detailed instruction on each assignment. We will discuss sample pieces of writing and review students’ works. You will also receive personalized feedback and guidance, and have opportunities to revise after receiving comments.

POLICIES

• Academic integrity
Plagiarism (including copying from the Internet) is a serious violation of academic ethics and may lead to suspension. Check the UH catalogue or website for definitions of plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and how violation of UH regulations and rules will be dealt with. As the website cautions: “Ignorance of these definitions will not provide an excuse for acts of academic dishonesty.”  http://www.hawaii.edu/student/conduct/

• Disability policy
If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she should notify the instructor and contact the Kokua program at 956-7511 or visit Student Services Center, room 13.

• Media policy
Students are expected to bring hard copies of assigned texts to class. Cell phones should be turned off. Texting and web surfing are not allowed in class.

• Grades
Following university guidelines, C indicates work that meets the course requirements in every way; B is given when student performance significantly exceeds the course requirements; A is an honor grade reserved for outstanding achievement.

The grade distribution is designed to reward consistent effort throughout the semester. Improvements will be duly reflected. Students who are concerned about their performance (or seeking general feedback) are encouraged to talk to
me as early as possible. Do not wait till it is too late. Once the final grades are posted, they are not negotiable unless there are errors involved.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- **Attendance (5%)**
Students are expected to attend all classes. More than four unexcused absences will affect the final grade for the course. More than ten will result in automatic failure of the course, regardless of the student’s prior standing. Late arrivals exceeding 15 minutes will count as full absences. Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented. Airline reservations and other travel plans do not constitute excused absences.

Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts from fellow students. Work assigned in a student’s absence will not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

- **Participation and quizzes (10%)**
I expect you to read all assigned texts with care, take notes and come to class with informed thoughts to contribute to class discussion. Pop quizzes will be given when I sense a slackening of attention.

Active participation in class is encouraged and required. Disagreements are welcome, provided that they are supported by thoughtful reasoning and presented in a manner respectful of others’ positions. Listening carefully and working with others in groups are also essential aspects of participation.

- **Basic exercises (30%)**
Students are required to complete four basic reading exercises (2-3 pages). The instructions will be handed out in advance.
  - Plot summary: due on 9/10
  - Structure/narrative arc: due on 9/25
  - Patterns and associations: due on 10/16

- **Analysis paper (15%)**
Students are required to complete one analysis papers (2-3 pages) on a topic to be handed out in advance.

- **Group workshops (20%)**
Students are required to participate in two group writing workshops (on Basic exercise 3 and the analysis paper). Instructions will be given in advance.

- **Final essay (20%)**
A six-page essay to be completed at the end of the semester. In order to receive a grade for this assignment, you must submit a draft (3-4 pages). I will comment on your draft and make suggestions for revision. The topic will be discussed in advance.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- Attendance (5%)
- Participation and quizzes (10%)
  - Three basic exercises (~6 pages) (30%)
  - One analysis papers (3+ pages) (15%)
  - Two group workshops (20%)
  - Final essay (6 pages with revision) (20%)

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


A Course Reader is available at MaPS (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/crdg/curriculum-materials/maps/contact-us/).
SCHEDULE

i. “China”

Week 1 (8/24, 8/26, 8/28)
  • Literature & modern China
  • New Culture Movement
    Milena Doleželová-Velingerová, “The Origins of Modern Chinese Literature”
    Lu Xun, “Preface to the First Collection of Stories, ‘Call to Arms’”
    (1919) (R)

*Week 2 (8/31, 9/2, 9/4)
  • “China”
  • “Loneliness”: self as alienation
    Yu Dafu, “Sinking” (1921)

Week 3 (9/9, 9/11)
  • The persistence of the past
  • “Loneliness”
    Lu Xun, “Medicine” (1919); “My Old Home”; “In the Wine Shop”

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  Plot summary due on September 10

Week 4 (9/14, 9/16, 9/18)
  • The persistence of the past
  • Cannibalism as a metaphor
  • Oppressed women
    Lu Xun, “Diary of a Madman”; “New Year’s Sacrifice” (1925); “Soap”

ii. Women

Week 5 (9/21, 9/23, 9/25)
  • Marriage & the patriarchal family
    Ling Shuhua, “Embroidered Pillows” and “The Night of Midautumn Festival” (1928)
    Rey Chow, “Virtuous Transactions: Reading Three Short Stories by Ling Shuhua”

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  “Structure/narrative arc” exercise due on September 25

Week 6 (9/28, 9/30, 10/2)
  • Marriage & the patriarchal family
    Eileen Chang, “The Golden Cangue”

Week 7 (10/5, 10/7, 10/9)
  • Gender and class
    Ban Jin, “Nanny Yang”
    Xiao Hong, “Hands”

Week 8 (10/12, 10/14, 10/16)
  • The New Woman?
    Lu Xun, “Regret for the Past” (1925)
    Ding Ling, “When I was in Xia Village” (1941)

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  “Patterns and associations” exercise due on October 16

iii. The city

Week 9 (10/19, 10/21, 10/23)
• New sensations
  Shi Zhejun, “One Evening in the Rainy Season” (1933)
  Mu Shiying, “Five in a Nightclub”

**Week 10** (10/26, 10/28, 10/30)
  Eileen Chang, “Sealed Off” (1943); “Red Rose, White Rose”

**Week 11** (11/2, 11/4, 11/6)
  Eileen Chang, “Love in a Fallen City”; “My Writing” (1944); “Preface”

### iv. The country

**Week 12** (11/9, 11/11, 11/13)
  • “Critical lyricism”
  Shen Congwen, “My Education” (1929); “Pai-tzu”; “Hsiao-hsiao” (1929); “The Lamp”; “Quiet”; “Three Men and One Woman” (1930)
  David Der-wei Wang, “Critical Lyricism: The Boundary of the Real in the Fiction of Shen Congwen”

**Week 13** (11/16, 11/18, 11/20)
  • Realism
  Mao Tun, “Spring Silkworms” (1932)
  Chao Shu-li, “Lucky” (1947)

⇒ Analysis paper #1 due on November 16

### v. Beyond

**Week 14** (11/23, 11/25)
  • Diaspora
  Hsü Ti-shan, “The Merchant's Wife”
  Final paper workshop

**Week 15** (11/30, 12/2, 12/4)
  TBA
  ⇒ Final paper draft due on November 30

**Week 16** (12/7, 12/9)
  Wrap up

Final paper due on December 16