Chinese 223-1001 (35296):
Modern Chinese Literature in Translation

Time: TBA
Classroom: TBA
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Course Description
This course offers an introduction to modern and contemporary Chinese literature within the context of modern Chinese history and contemporary Chinese culture, through the reading of the representative works of several famous modern and contemporary Chinese writers. The course provides students an excellent variety of types of fiction including short stories, plays, and novels that go back to the beginning of the 20th century, and up to the 21st century. All readings, lectures, and class discussion are in English. No knowledge of Chinese language and culture is required.

Course Objective
Through the works of China’s writers, not only will this course teach students a great deal about China, it also shares with students universal human problems and experiences, and about the issues of the contemporary world that confound geographical or cultural boundaries. It provides students a review of the changing aspects of family, society, politics, philosophy, and sexual roles between past and present China, and between the East and West. While we learn about the significance of words, images, places, and historical references as they relate to a particular context of creation and reception in China, we also trace the various transforming phases in which the influx of western thought and the inherent mode of expression influence and alter the form and content of modern Chinese literature. At the same time, students acquire new experience and obtain new meaning that they can apply in their lives today as they explore the works in contemporary context.

In the new Silver Core, this course will satisfy CO11 Global Contexts: Students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways that historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss and reflect upon the core aspects of Chinese social and cultural heritage reflected by the depiction of the society, economy, culture, tradition, and politics in modern and contemporary Chinese literature.
• Identify, interpret and analyze the selected topics, themes, and styles of Chinese literary works as well as the connections of life experiences between China and the U.S. in the current global context.
• Articulate and evaluate the cultural differences between the West and East, and the continuity and changes with contemporary global significance.
• Contextualize current experiences and apply the knowledge of social, cultural, and literary content in modern and contemporary Chinese literature to produce performances and research papers.

How this course will satisfy this core objective:
This course provides students with a comprehensive review of the strong contrast of the changing aspects of family, society, politics, philosophy, and sexual roles between past and present China, and between the East and the West. While students learn about the significance of words, images, places, and historical references as they relate to a particular context of creation and reception in China, they also trace the various transforming phases in which the influx of western thought and the inherent mode of expression influence and alter the form and content of modern and contemporary Chinese literature. Therefore, the students acquire new experience and obtain new meaning that they can apply in their lives today as they explore the works in contemporary and modern literary contexts. This course also serves as a cornerstone for supporting students to go beyond literature and research in other related domains of Chinese and Asian studies in the current global context.

How student learning outcomes related to this Core objective will be assessed:
Students will be assessed by in-class discussions and pop quizzes regularly to measure their understanding of the assigned readings. Students will apply their knowledge from the introduced literary content and produce five response papers to contextualize their life experiences in relation to those in modern and contemporary literature of China. For final projects, students will have the option of giving performances or writing research papers to reflect, synthesize and interpret their viewpoints in contemporary global context between China and the U.S., either focusing on a single piece of reading or conducting a literary comparative analysis. Grading guidelines will be provided to ensure the measurability of the assignments and assessments. The results of the assessments will be recorded by the instructor. The instructor may modify the lesson plans periodically based on the results of the formative and summative assessments to reinforce the accountability of the student learning outcomes of the course.

Readings

Required
6. PDF files are downloadable through WebCampus. (PDF)

Reference on Reserve

**A note on Romanization:** A number of systems have been used for romanizing Mandarin Chinese and the most common are the *Wade-Giles* and *Pin-yin* systems. In this course we will use the *Pin-yin* system most of the time, following the practice of our textbook.

**Course Requirement and Grading**

1) **Participation** (25%): Readings, attendance, and class discussion
You are expected to read the assigned texts before each lecture, and to think about what you read. You may keep some notes of your reactions to readings as the basis for later class discussion. Lecture notes will be posted on WebCampus before class. The students may print out and bring the notes to class. When you come to class, lectures will be given by the instructor first, and sometimes films will also be used to provide the necessary background and to set the stage for intelligent discussion. **It is very important for students to participate in class discussion**, since it proves to the instructor that you have read the assigned text. Original ideas will always be given a greater value than unreflective thoughts.

2) **Pop Quizzes** (25%): In addition to class participation the instructor will give pop quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be very short and consist of 2 multiple choices and 3 true or false questions. The questions will cover the assigned reading materials and/or prior class discussions. If you do the readings and pay attention in class, you will have no problem getting the full score. This should be an easy 25 points.

3) **Response Papers** (25%, 5X5 pts) In order to encourage deeper reflection on the readings and in-class lectures and discussions, response papers/journals will be assigned. **You only need to submit FIVE papers.** In other words, among all the assigned readings throughout the semester, you may choose to write papers on ANY FIVE of them that you find interesting. These papers will deal with the previous week’s materials, including readings, lectures, and in-class discussions, and have to show significant and insightful reflection on the contents of the chosen topic. Response papers will be due in class on the following Monday. They should be written in paragraph form (not bullet points or outline) and should deal with at least one theme, question, or passage of the reading discussed in the previous week, of the student’s choice. Each response paper will be no more than 2 pages, double-spaced, in 12 point New Times Roman font, with one-inch margins.

4) **Final Project** (25%): Choose ONLY ONE of the two options below

**Option A:** Performance (5% for proposal, 20% for performance). Pick a piece of modern or contemporary Chinese literature work and elaborate it into a short drama. It can either be a piece we have read and discussed in class or some other modern or contemporary work you find interesting outside of the class. You will form a group with your classmates, and either make a short film for screening, or perform the drama in class. The performance will be 10-15 minutes long. Each group should have no more than four people, unless the story does require more participants. And as a
general rule, each person in the group obtains the same number of points. A project proposal (no more than one page) must be submitted to the instructor at least a week before the performance.

Option B: Research Paper (5% for proposal, 20% for final paper). The paper will be an original and analytical writing (3-5 pages). You can either choose something from our readings or outside of our readings. You may work on a single piece, or have a comparative analysis. If you want to treat a group of works, please talk to the instructor before you start to formulate your topic. For the content of the paper, please take into consideration the following: a). historical and/or cultural context that the work is produced under; b). the background of the author(s); c). the form, style, and the content; d). your interpretation and/or argument of the meaning of the work. I recommend you to come up with your own interpretation and/or argument instead of following what other scholars have already said. You may consult secondary sources, but it is not necessary that you do so. If you consult secondary sources, please use proper bibliographic format (MLA or Chicago Style), giving credit where credit is due. A project proposal (no more than one page) must be submitted to the instructor at least a week before the due date.

Weekly Schedule
Week 1
01/20 (Wed): Orientation and introduction to Modern Chinese Literature

Week 2
01/25 (Mon) & 01/27 (Wed): The Self-awakening of Modern Writers
Lu Xun, “The New Year Sacrifice”, “A Madman’s Diary”, “Kong Yiji”
Cao Yu, “Thunderstorm”

Week 3
02/01 (Mon) & 02/03 (Wed): Traditionalism and Anti-traditionalism
Lu Xun, “Medicine”, “Soap”, “The Real Story of Ah-Q”, “In the Wine Shop”
Mao Dun, “Spring Silkworms”
Film: The New Year Sacrifice

Week 4
02/08 (Mon) & 02/10 (Wed): Women of the Time
Shen Congwen, “Xiaoxiao”, Border Town
Xiao Hong, “Hands”

Week 5
02/15 (Mon): President’s Day
02/17 (Wed): Eileen Chang
“Red Rose, White Rose”, “Love in the Fallen City”

Week 6
02/22 (Mon) & 02/24 (Wed): Eileen Chang
Film: Red Rose, White Rose

Week 7
02/29 (Mon) & 03/02 (Wed): The Martial Art World
Jin Yong (Louis Cha), *The Book and the Sword*, Chapter 1-6

**Week 8**
03/07 (Mon) & 03/09 (Wed): The Heroes and Heroines in the *Jianghu*
Jin Yong (Louis Cha), *The Book and the Sword*, Chapter 7-14

**Week 9**
03/14 (Mon) & 03/16 (Wed): Ethnicity
Jin Yong (Louis Cha), *The Book and the Sword*, Chapter 15-20

**Week 10**
03/21 (Mon) & 03/23 (Wed): Spring Break, no Class

**Week 11**
03/28 (Mon & 03/30 (Wed): The Hooligan in Beijing
Wang Shuo, *Troublesbooter*
Film: *Troublesbooter*

**Week 12**
04/04 (Mon) & 04/06 (Wed): Nostalgia in Post-Mao Period
Wangshuo, *Wild Beast*
Film: *In the Heat of the Sun*

**Week 13**
04/11 (Mon) & 04/13 (Wed): Symbol of the Old World
Su Tong, *Raise the Red Lantern*

**Week 14**
04/18 (Mon) & 04/20 (Wed): The Xungen (Searching for Roots) Movement

**Week 15**
04/25 (Mon) & 04/27 (Wed): The Xungen (Searching for Roots) Movement
Mo Yan, *Red Sorghum: a Novel of China*, Chapter 6-11

**Week 16**
05/02 (Mon): Film: *Red Sorghum*
05/04 (Wed): Prep Day, no Class

Final Performance/Final Paper due on Final Exam Date

**Class Policy**
Attendance will be taken every day. Please come to class punctually. There will be no make-up for classes. If you have to come to class late or leave class early, please notify the instructor in advance. Pop quizzes may be given at the beginning of the class. Pop quizzes cannot be made up except in the case of an excusable absence and proper documentation such as a doctor’s note. In the case of a make-up, you will need to take it within two school days of the week that the quiz was given. Submitting the assignment late will also affect your grade unless you have a good reason such as
illness and some kind of documentation such as a doctor's notes. Assignments that are late by one day will receive at most half credit. Assignments turned in more than a day late will not be accepted or receive any credit.

**Statement on Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty in this course will receive a 0 on the quiz/assignment in question. In more severe cases, e.g., extensive plagiarism of other people's work, the case may be turned over for prosecution by the proper university authorities.

**Academic Success Services**
Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-443 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter/), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring/), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing_center/). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

**Disability Access**
Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**Statement on Audio and Video Recording**
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

Enjoy the class!