Prose Writing by Lu Xun
CHI 340
32245
Fall 2014

Class Times: TTH 3:30 – 5:00    Location: BUR 128

Instructor: Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang, Professor
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Office Hours: T 2:20 - 3:20; Th 5:00-7:00

I. Course Description

The class will read selected prose writings by Lu Xun (1881-1936), who is widely recognized as the most important modern Chinese writer, and whose trenchant cultural criticism have exerted profound influence over generations of Chinese intellectuals. Class time will be divided between close reading and analysis of the Chinese texts and discussion of Lu Xun’s ideas, writing style, and critical views of Chinese history and society.

This course is part of the CHI 340 series on Advanced Chinese Language and Literature that are designed to enhance the students’ knowledge of Chinese literature, culture, and history through reading selected texts in the Chinese original. To enroll in this class, a student should have completed three years of college-level Chinese language courses at an American institution, or their equivalents. Heritage students with an equivalent knowledge in the Chinese language and a serious interest in learning about the subject may also be eligible to enroll (please email the instructor for details).

Class preparation and participation in class discussion are extremely important. Three equally weighted tests will be given. The texts will include 1) translation from Chinese into English and 2) essay questions on the contents of Lu Xun’s writings, to be answered in Chinese. In addition, each student will be asked to do one oral report during the semester. Attendance is extremely important; more than three absences will significantly lower your final grade.

Pre-requisite: CHI 320L in residence or instructor’s consent.

II. Structure, Format, and Procedures

• Selected Chinese texts of Lu Xun’s prose works will be posted on Canvas under “Files.” Whenever available, these will be accompanied by English translations.

• Specific passages from the Chinese texts will be selected (highlighted in yellow) for close linguistic analysis and oral translation in class. The students are expected to look up every single word that they do not already know and get their correct pronunciations before coming to class, and be prepared to read aloud the sentences and translate them into English in a somewhat fluent fashion.
• When preparing the assigned passages at home, students are allowed to consult English translations. However, they must try to understand each word and its usages, as well as the grammatical pattern of the sentences, and come up with a translation that is close to the Chinese original in a linguistic sense. It is unacceptable if they simply read off from the English translation when called upon to translate in class.

• Three class periods will be devoted to oral reports (please see the Schedule for the exact dates). Each presenter will prepare a polished written draft of the report and make enough copies for everyone in class.

• Depending on the size of the class, the presentation should run between 7 and 10 minutes. The presenter should not just read from the notes, but rather speak naturally about the subject. Everyone in the audience must prepare two “intelligent” questions about the work, and be prepared to ask them in Chinese in the discussion session.

• There will be three equally weighted tests. Each test will include at least two parts: translation and essay questions. Essay questions have to be answered in Chinese. The answers can be just a short paragraph, consisting of a few sentences, in either the traditional or the simplified style. A good way of preparing for the essay questions is to get into the habit of jotting down thoughts on the works in Chinese throughout the semester. One may consult any background information available online, but the presentations draft must be written in your own words.

• Since this is the most advanced Chinese class offered in our program, students enrolled in this class tend to have different personal backgrounds and varying levels of linguistic proficiency. The students with lesser experience in Chinese should not be unduly discouraged, as the actual progress made in the semester is the most important concern when it comes to the final grading. They should always keep in mind that they are not competing with their classmates, but rather with themselves.

III. Grading Policies

Grades will be based on:

a). Class preparation and participation (45%)
b). Three equally weighted tests (45%)
c). One oral report (10%)

Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade. Absences exceeding the allowed quota may result in automatic dropping of the final grade by one or more levels.
IV. Course Materials

A. Texts to be closely studied in class are posted on Canvas under “Files.”

B. Chinese and English translations of prose writings by Lu Xun for further reference:

1. 鲁迅文集-天涯在线书库
http://www.tianyabook.com/luxun/


C. Recommended background readings:


**Documented Disability Statement**

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssf
Prose Writing by Lu Xun
Schedule
*The schedule is subject to modification

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Aug 28 Introduction; filling out Questionnaires

Sept 2 China in revolution 1911-1949 (10 parts) (watch on YouTube)
Read the following for background information on Lu Xun:
  a) Lu Xun’s “1922-Preface to Call for Arms”
  b) Julia Lovell’s Introduction to A True The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun.

4 孔乙己
9 阿Q正传, Ch. 1, Ch. 2
11 阿Q正传, Ch. 2, Ch. 3
16 阿Q正传, Ch. 3, Ch. 9
18 故乡
23 故乡
25 Reports

Oct. 2 娜拉走后怎样
7 娜拉走后怎样
9 野草; 华盖集
14 父亲的病; 琐记
16 阿长与山海经
21 纪念刘和珍君
23 纪念刘和珍君
28 Reports
30 Second Test

Nov 4 无声的中国
6 革命时代的文学; 黄花节的杂感
11 拿来主义
13 运命

18 从孩子的照相说起
20 女吊

25 女吊
27 Thanksgiving

Dec.  2  Reports
4  Third Test