I. Course Description

The class will read selected prose writings by Lu Xun (1881-1936), who is considered by many to be the most important modern Chinese writer, and whose trenchant cultural criticism have exerted influence over several 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 his views on 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. 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 and the English translations will be posted on the Blackboard under “Course Documents.” Complete works by Lu Xun and the English translations are also put on reserve at PCL.

- Specific passages from the Chinese texts will be selected for close linguistic analysis and oral translation in class. Selections will be posted in “Assignments” on the Blackboard a few days in advance. You are expected to look up every single word that you do not already know and get their correct pronunciations.
before coming to class. Be prepared to read aloud the sentences and translate them into English in a somewhat fluent fashion.

- You may consult the English translations while preparing the assigned passages at home. However, you 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 closer to the Chinese original in a linguistic sense. It is unacceptable if you 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. Please do not read from your notes. Try to 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 following the reports.

- 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 answer can be just a short paragraph, consisting of a few sentences. You may write in either the traditional or the simplified form. A good way of preparing for the essay questions is to get into the habit of jotting down your thoughts on the works in Chinese throughout the semester. You may also consult any background readings you can find, but must write up the draft using your own words.

- Since this is the most advanced Chinese class offered in our program, we tend to have students with very different backgrounds. If you feel that your proficiency is not as good as some of your classmates, do not be overly concerned. Progress you make during the semester will be taken into serious consideration in grading. What I care most is how much you learn from this class, so you will be essentially competing with yourself.

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
Prose writings by Lu Xun:

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


Background readings:  


**Documented Disability Statement**  
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.
Prose Writing by Lu Xun
Schedule
*This schedule is subject to modifications

CHI 340 (32075)
Spring 2012

Jan 17 Questionnaires; China in Revolution (PBS video)
19 China in Revolution (PBS video) (continued)
   Read the following for background information on Lu Xun:
   a) Lu Xun’s “Preface”
   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.

我们怎样做父亲
24 我们怎样做父亲
26 我们怎样做父亲
31 孔乙己

Feb 2 阿 Q 正传, Ch. 1, Ch. 2
7 阿 Q 正传, Ch. 1, Ch. 2
9 故乡
16 故乡：父亲的病
21 父亲的病：琐记
23 Reports
28 First Test

Mar 1 娜拉走后怎样
6 娜拉走后怎样
8 野草

13 Spring Break

15 Spring Break

20 华盖集

22 纪念刘和珍君

27 无声的中国

29 革命时代的文学

Apr 3 Reports

5 Second Test

10 运命

12 拿来主义

17 拿来主义

19 从孩子的照相说起

24 女吊

26 这也是生活

Course Instructor Survey

May 1 Reports

3 Third Test