Modern Chinese Literature

CHI 340
31560
Fall 2009

Class Times: TTH 2:00 – 3:30        Location: CAL 323

Instructor: Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang, Professor
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Office Hours: TTh 12:30 -1:00; T 3:30 - 5:30

I. Course Description

This is a fourth-year level Chinese language class. To enroll in this class, students should have an equivalent of three years of college-level Chinese language education at an American institution. If you are not sure whether you are at the right level for this class, please contact the Instructor by e-mail.

The class will read prose works selected from the Republican Period of modern Chinese history (1919-1949). Readings will include stories written by such important authors as Lu Xun, Shen Congwen, Mao Dun, and Zhang Ailing. Class time will be divided between translation and linguistic analysis of pre-assigned parts of the texts, and discussion of these texts as cultural and literary products within the particular socio-historical contexts. While English translation of the stories will be included in the course packet to facilitate literary discussion, the students are responsible for looking up in dictionary every word of the assigned passages and know their exact meaning and correct pronunciation before coming to each class.

Class performance counts 45% toward the final grade. Three equally weighted tests, consisting of both the language and the literature components, will be given. Each student will be asked to do one oral report during the semester. More than three absences in the entire semester will significantly affect the final grade.

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

II. Structure, Format, and Procedures

• Besides the book on Lu Xun, there are two sets of texts in the course packet: the Chinese texts of the stories, and their English translations. Before we start working on each story, please read the entire story in English. We will conduct a brief discussion of the plot of the story in Chinese.

• Specific passages from the Chinese texts will be assigned for close linguistic analysis and oral translation in class. The page and line numbers will be posted 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 version of the story 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 given in the course packet when called upon to translate in class.

- After we finish 2 or 3 stories we will devote one class period to oral reports.
  1. 5 or 6 students will be assigned to give reports on the stories we have just finished. Each presenter will prepare a polished written draft of the report and make enough copies for everyone in class.
  2. The presentation should be no more than 10 minutes. Do not read from your notes; try to speak naturally about the subject.
  3. Everyone in the audience has to prepare two “intelligent” questions about the story, 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 stories in Chinese throughout the semester. You may also consult the recommended reading, *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction*, which will be on reserve at PCL, for historical background and ideas about the stories’ themes.

- 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

(a) Xeroxed course packet (available at Paradigm Copy Shop; 407 W. 24th St., Tel. 472-7986)
(b) *Lu Xun xiao shuo ji, vocabulary: selected short stories of Lu Xun* (available at the University Co-op)

**Documented Disability Statement**
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.
**Schedule**

Aug. 27  Introduction

Sept. 1  Video screening of *China in Revolution*

3  鲁迅  Lu Xun. 《呐喊》自序  Preface to *Call to Arms*

8  鲁迅  Lu Xun. 《呐喊》自序  Preface to *Call to Arms*

10  鲁迅  Lu Xun  狂人日记  Madman’s Diary

15  鲁迅  Lu Xun  狂人日记  Madman’s Diary

17  鲁迅  Lu Xun  藥（药）  Medicine

22  鲁迅  Lu Xun  藥（药）  Medicine

24  鲁迅  Lu Xun  祝福（祝福）  New Year Sacrifice

29  鲁迅  Lu Xun  祝福（祝福）  New Year Sacrifice

Oct. 1  Reports

6  First Test

8  沈从文  Shen Congwen  萧萧  Hisao- hsiao

13  沈从文  Shen Congwen  萧萧  Hisao- hsiao

15  沈从文  Shen Congwen  萧萧  Hisao- hsiao

20  茅盾  Mao Dun  春蠶  Spring Silkworms

22  茅盾  Mao Dun  春蠶  Spring Silkworms

27  茅盾  Mao Dun  春蠶  Spring Silkworms

29  Reports

Nov. 3  Second Test

5  萧军  Zhao Shuli  羊  Goats

10  萧军  Zhao Shuli  羊  Goats

12  萧军  Zhao Shuli  羊  Goats

17  張愛玲  Zhang Ailing  桂花蒸，阿小悲秋  Shame, Amah!

19  張愛玲  Zhang Ailing  桂花蒸，阿小悲秋  Shame, Amah!

24  張愛玲  Zhang Ailing  桂花蒸，阿小悲秋  Shame, Amah!

26  Thanksgiving
Dec. 1 Reports
   Course Instructor Survey
3 Third Test