

Contemporary Chinese Literature
Course abbreviation: Cont Chinese Lit

Instructor's Information

Instructor: TBD
Homepage: TBD
Email: TBD
Tel. TBD
Office: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Preferred communication: TBD
Class Schedule: 3 hours per week

Course goals and objectives

Catalog Course Description: This course is an introduction to contemporary Chinese literature. It aims at familiarizing students with the literature written in Chinese from 1949 to the present, and the concomitant transformation of Chinese socio-cultural milieu since the creation of the People's Republic of China.

This course is taught in Chinese.

Prerequisites: Exemption Exam

Pre/Corequisites: Exemption Exam

This course familiarizes students with the literature written in Chinese during the Maoist and post-Maoist era. It also provides an opportunity to further develop reading and writing fluency in Chinese within a literary and cultural context.

In this course you will:

1. Discuss the characteristics of contemporary Chinese literature.
2. Increase their ability to read and comprehend literary texts written in contemporary Chinese.
3. Identify and discuss the main characteristics of contemporary Chinese literature.
4. Explain salient features of contemporary sociocultural trends in contemporary Chinese society.
5. Write essays analyzing literary elements of contemporary Chinese literature.

Textbook, grading, and other class logistics

Textbooks: The following textbooks will support this course.

Hong, Zicheng. *The History of Contemporary Chinese Literature*. Beijing University Press, 2007. Second Edition.

Xie, Mian and Zicheng Hong, Eds.. *Selected Works of Contemporary Chinese Literature*. Beijing University Press, 2002.

Yu, Chun. *Little Green: Growing up During the Chinese Cultural Revolution*. Simon & Schuster. 2005.

Li, Siyu. *A thousand Peaks: Poems from China*. Pacific Review PR, 2002.

Hsu, Vivian Ling. *A Reader in Post-Cultural-Revolution Chinese Literature: Chinese Texts in Traditional character*. The Chinese University Press, 1994.

We will also discuss the film *The Teahouse Cha guan* (1982) Beijing Film Studio

Grades: Your final grade will be determined based on the following evaluation points.

Midterm 20%

Final exam 20%

Quizzes (5 quizzes x 2) & projects 30%

Homework (10 HW x 1) 10%

Lab (10 labs x 1) 10%

Oral presentation 10%

- **Grade distributions:** A: 95-100%, A-: 90-94%, B+: 86-89%, B: 83-85%, B-: 80-82%, C+: 76-79%, C: 73-75%, C-: 70-72%, D+: 66-69%, D: 63-65%, D-: 60-62%, F: -59%, WU: Unofficial withdraw (≈F), W: Withdraw

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 Overview of contemporary Chinese literature

Three major periods:

1949 - 1966 "17-year Period"

1966 - 1976 "Cultural Revolution Period"

1976 - Present "New Period"

Week 2 Zong Pu: Two Red Beans (short story)

Shao Yanxiang: Travel to Dunhuang (poem)

Week 3 Wang Meng: The Young Newcomer in the Department of Organization (short story)

Yang Shuo: Camellia (prose)

Week 4 Ru Zhijuan: Lily Flower (short story)
Guo Xiaochuan: Autumn in Tuanpowa
Lowland (poem)

Week 5 Zhao Shuli: Temper Yourself (short story)
Xia Yan: A Talk about Rats in the Year of the Rat (prose)

Week 6 Zhang Jie: Love, It Can't Be Forgotten (short story)
Shi Zhi: It's Beijing, 4:08 a.m. (poem)

Week 7 Gao Ziaosheng: Chen Huansheng Went to Town (short story)
Jia Pingwa: Qinqiang Opera (prose)

Week 8 Can Xue: The Little Cabin in the Mountain (short story)
Ai Qing: Fish Fossil (poem)

Week 9 Wang Zengqi: Initiation into Monkhood (short story)
Bei Dao: Answer (poem)

Week 10 Guo Xuebo: Tian Haizi: Heaven Lake (short story)
Liu Liangcheng: One Person's Village (prose)

Week 11 Yan Lianke: Black Pig Hair, White Pig Hair (short story)
Shu Ting: Dusk in April (poem)

Week 12 Su Tong: Box Wagon (short story)
Lin Jinlan: The City Wall (prose)

Week 13 Final Examination

Policies

Classroom policies: The following policies have been instituted to ensure an optimal learning experience for all students:

- Please arrive on time. Three lateness equal absences.
- Please prepare for each class meeting by completing all writing/reading assignments beforehand.
- Please turn your cell phone to silence during class.
- Please turn off your cell phone during the exam and the quiz.

Valuing LaGuardia's Diversity: As a college community we represent a world of perspectives on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and nationality, to name a few. I concur with **the College's Declaration of Pluralism**, if you have any suggestions in helping me to create a welcoming classroom environment, please tell me.

Rules for Personal Conduct: You are expected to obey the rules and regulations of the College about conduct. Disorderly or indecent behavior is not appropriate in a college setting. It is a violation of college rules and is not acceptable.

The student attendance policy: As stated in the college catalog: "Attendance in class is a requirement and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours. Note: Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program" (117).

The academic dishonesty policy: As stated in the catalog: "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and is punishable by penalties ranging from a grade of 'F' on a given test, research paper or assignment, to an 'F' in the course or suspension or expulsion from the College. Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Internet Plagiarism
- Obtaining Unfair Advantages
- Falsification of Records and Official Documents
- Misconduct in Internships (117)

Policy on assigning the grade of Incomplete: As stated in the college catalogue: "The Incomplete grade may be awarded to students who have not completed all of the required course work but for whom there is a reasonable expectation of satisfactory completion. A student who is otherwise in good standing in a course defined as complying with the college attendance policy and maintaining a passing average but who has not completed at most two major assignments or examinations by the end of the course may request an incomplete grade. To be eligible, such a student must provide, before the instructor submits grades for the course, a documented reason, satisfactory to the instructor, for not having completed the assignment on time. Instructors giving IN grades must inform students in writing of the conditions under which they may receive passing grades. Departments may designate certain courses in which no incomplete grades may be awarded." (120).

Declaration of pluralism: The Education and Language Acquisition Department embraces diversity. We must respect each other regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability and social class. For detailed information regarding the policy, please refer to Student Handbook 2011-2012 (p.89).

Final Remarks on Course Policies

*Office hours and emails are solely for the purpose of clarification, for further explanation, for further requests for illustrations, for sharing ideas, for talking about difficulties or even to talk more about a topic that you feel you understand. I love ideas and I will always be glad to talk or write about any ideas that come up in class! This, however, is *reserved for people who come to class*. **If you are absent, you will need to find notes and be responsible for what you missed.** We can meet after you have tried to make up for a class. **Emails with the following content will not be answered and will be frowned upon: “I’m sorry I missed class today. Did I miss something important?”**

***A further note on writing emails:**

Please be mindful when you write emails. Whenever you come to class and whenever you communicate with others in the College, be aware that *you are* in a professional environment. Similarly, whenever you write an email to your professor, you are writing a professional document. Make sure you always include a greeting (Hello Professor X, Hi Professor X, Good morning Professor X), followed by a well-written text (as grammatically correct as possible and formal). Lastly—depending on the nature of your message—be sure to say “Thank you,” or “Hope to hear from you soon,” or “Thank you for your time,” followed by your name.

* Please no cell phones in class and absolutely no texting. Also, laptops and tablets in class prove to be distracting. Please see me if you must bring one to class.

*Your decision to remain enrolled in this class implies that you agree with Course Requirements and Policies.