

# Georgia Institute of Technology

## School of Modern Languages

---

### CHINESE 4022: KUNGFU FICTION AND POP CULTURE (SYLLABUS)

---

Class hours: MWF 11:05-11:55 am

Room: 206 Swann

Instructor: [Paul B. Foster](#), Ph.D. 傅抱仁 (Fù Bàorén)

email: [paul.foster@modlangs.gatech.edu](mailto:paul.foster@modlangs.gatech.edu);

[paulbfoster2008@gmail.com](mailto:paulbfoster2008@gmail.com)

office: Swann 311; office phone: 404-385-0936 (email contact recommended)

office hours: Tues. & Thurs.: 10:00-11:00am; or by appointment.

---

#### DESCRIPTION:

Utilizing authentic kungfu fiction texts, this 3 credit, proficiency based, advanced level language and culture course simultaneously continues the students' development skills of conversation/oral presentation, listening, reading, writing and web-based research in Chinese.

Assignments include a character journal, vocabulary quizzes, and text research exercises at the end of each lesson, as well as midterm and final exams and a semester project/presentation. Regular, punctual, positive participatory attendance is essential and strictly calculated in your participation grade.

This class is not open to native speakers/readers.

---

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Paul B. Foster, Course Pack: 中国武侠小说与流行文化 [Chinese Kungfu Fiction and Popular Culture].

Helpful websites: <http://www.nciku.com/>  
[www.zhongwen.com](http://www.zhongwen.com)  
<http://www.yellowbridge.com/>  
<http://baike.baidu.com/>

---

**Recommended Class Preparation.** You are expected to fully prepare the typical daily lesson by doing the following:

- Study the assigned text
- Answer basic, intermediate and advanced research questions through online web research
- **Prepare to present your assigned research question for classroom discussion**
- Practice writing the new vocabulary, first in a character journal and then independently in preparation for vocabulary quiz

**Class Participation (25%).** You are expected to fully participate in a variety of class activities geared toward language and cultural acquisition including, but not limited to, drills, 30 second discussion presentations, reading

comprehension **and presentation of text excerpts** and supplementary topics. Students are expected to bring laptops for use in class and advance class activities by providing real time resources through our google.doc Class Notes Page. *(Note: using laptops for non-assignment related activities is strictly prohibited will result in the failure to earn that day's class participation grade, and continued such use will result in further sanctions as an honor code violation).* Active class participation is required to earn points toward your "Class Participation" grade. Late arrival will result in pro-rated deduction of daily participation points, as will lack of participation.

**Research Questions (10%).** Complete the basic, intermediate and advanced research questions at the end of each lesson.

**Character Journal (10%).** You should keep a simple, neat, well organized character journal in which the vocabulary for each lesson will be numbered and copied 5 times each on sequential lines in the journal. The journal is due for grading at the beginning of the final exam. Please keep up with character practice, because knowledge of characters, pinyin and definitions are required on vocabulary quizzes and the midterm and final exams.

**Final Exam (10%), Midterm Exam (10%), Vocabulary Quizzes (25%).** All exams, tests and quizzes are taken in class and are closed book, closed notes. One brief vocabulary quiz will be taken each day. Midterm and final exams will be kept on file for 2 semesters following this one and be available for perusal during office hours.

**Semester Project: TV/Film Adaptation Presentation (10%):** Prepare and present a segment from the television series or film adaptation of one of the assigned texts of your choice (selection pending instructor approval – no credit for a repetition of a previous semester's presentations). For your synopsis/analysis you must:

- (1) justify why you chose this video clip;
- (2) mention the relationship between the text and the video clip;
- (3) point out some "interesting" translation problems;
- (4) relate time, place and the text and the video clip
- (5) comment on the "Chinese-ness" of the text and the video clip

Grading is based on your preparation, presentation, and quality of overall effort. Presentations will be efficiently done in 15-20 minutes and scheduled in the last 3 weeks of class (adjusted based on the number of students taking the class). **Note: Credit will be given only upon submission of the completed electronic Word document** – this is the document in which all of my requested revisions have been made!

**\*\*\*I highly recommend that you send me a near complete draft one week in advance. This will help ensure you are on track, and I can assist in correcting your analysis prior to your presentation!\*\*\***

Some Preparation and Presentation Format Notes:

1.	Timely submission of segment from the television series or film adaptation of one of the assigned texts with clear subtitles and approval of your project topics (by Thursday of week 5; <b>-10% if late</b> )	
2.	Vocabulary list of 20 items – 2+ characters per item ( <b>highlight 5</b> to be included in the Character Journal and on the final exam). <b>Find interesting items not studied before!!</b>	
3.	Four sentence structures (find interesting ones – avoid duplication); hyperlink to line in the lyrics	
4.	Chinese character dialogue and English translation – <b>translation is your own</b> (you must credit URLs that you reference with other translations and supply the reference translation, if any used, in juxtaposition to yours in your document with differences highlighted)	
5.	150+ character impressions synopsis & analysis with template vocabulary included in your own words (not from web)	
6.	Bio/background and pictures from web in both Chinese and English (all URLs credited)	
7.	Cover page with hyperlinked table of contents to items 1- 5 above	
8.	Footer with your name, title, page number and date	
9.	Near complete draft due at least one week in advance for instructor to edit.	
10.	Provide instructor with electronic copy of presentation for pre-presentation edits at least 24 hours	

	before your presentation	
11.	Provide classmates with electronic copy of presentation 12 hours before your presentation (copy the instructor for time verification)	
12.	Provide hardcopy handout for instructor by time of presentation.	
13.	Teach: Lead class in this order – artist bio; vocabulary list; sentence structures; group reading of parts of the dialogue; play the video clip; your impressions/analysis; discussion.	
14.	Finalized electronic document required for grade (otherwise an automatic Zero); after incorporating presentation edits from instructor, incrementing the doc title and returning it to instructor.	

We will do some practice presentations so you will know the format. Your creativity is encouraged.

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up is counted only for excused absences (verifiable illness, job interviews, etc.) and ***must be completed within one week of return to class***. Timely email notification of prearranged absence is expected if you want consideration for make-up. The student is responsible for providing verification and turning in work within this period **without prompting by instructor**. It is recommended that the student complete all assignments regardless of the status of an absence since assignments contribute to the student's overall skills base.

**Recap.** Instruction, readings and class discussion are primarily in Chinese. There is an emphasis on discussion of the texts/videos and drilling of new vocabulary and sentence structures. *Students are expected to think about what is assigned for each class period and contribute to class discussion.*

**GRADING SCALE:** 100—90 A; 89—80 B; 79—70 C; 69—60 D; 59—0 F.

#### Topical Schedule:

Week 1: Chinese History through Kungfu Fiction

Week 2: 36 Stratagems of Warfare

Week 3: Sunzi and the Art of War

Week 4: Geography

Week 5: Schools of Swordsmanship

Week 6: Buddhism and Shaolin Monks

Week 7: Chinese Medicine

#### 期中考试 Midterm Exam

Week 8: Face and Flattery

Week 9: The Drinking Hero and Humor

Week 10: Curses and Revenge

Week 11: Righteous Friendship and Romantic Ideals

Week 12: Connections and Relationships

Week 13: a. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation  
b. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation

Week 14: a. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation  
b. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation

Week 15: a. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation  
b. Semester Project Reports: Video Clip Presentation

## 期末考试 Final Exam

<b>ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>ML Learning Outcome 1 :</b> Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Intermediate Low – Intermediate Mid ACTFL level
<b>ML Learning Outcome 2:</b> Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class for 10-15 minutes with minimal notes on a selected kungfu film or television series video
<b>ML Learning Outcome 3:</b> Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will produce a range of writing from simple written description to half page summary analysis as conclusion of a report on a selected kungfu film or television series video at the Intermediate-Low to Intermediate-Mid level on the ACTFL scale
<b>ML Learning Outcome 4:</b> Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will demonstrate comprehension of authentic martial arts fiction texts through analysis and answering Research and Discussion Topics
<b>ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE</b>	
<b>ML Learning Outcome 5:</b> Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a <i>specific</i> target-language country or region	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will learn to successfully analyze Chinese popular martial arts fiction and related film and television series texts
<b>ML Learning Outcome 6:</b> Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will display the ability to analyze the China/Taiwan/Hong Kong martial arts fiction.
<b>ML Learning Outcome 7:</b> Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context	<b>CHIN 4022:</b> Students will display the ability to analyze issues crossing history, politics and culture in the China/Taiwan/Hong Kong martial arts fiction and film scene.