

Chinese Fiction from Taiwan

CHI 340

32230

Fall 2017

Class Times: TTH 2:00-3:30 pm Location: CMA 5.190

Instructor: Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang, Professor

Office Hours: TH 3:30 – 6:30 pm

I. Course Description

The class will read works of fiction produced in contemporary Taiwan (1949-present) in the Chinese original. Readings will include mainstream literary writings in the early years after the Nationalist Retreat, works from the Modernist and the Nativist schools in the 1960s and 1970s, and urban (postmodern) fiction that has gained greater popularity since the late twentieth century.

The course is designed to meet the dual objective of advanced language learning and literary appreciation. In addition to translating selected parts of the texts into English, the class will analyze the literary techniques and examine the social, cultural, and political implications of the literary works. While English translation of the stories will be provided on Canvas 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 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

- There are two sets of course materials: the Chinese texts of the stories, and the English translations. Before we start working on each story, please be sure to read the entire story in English. Knowledge of the overall plot of the story will serve as the basis for class discussions.
- 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 Canvas 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. You will receive a sign-up sheet early in the semester to select one story for oral presentation. Here is the format of the presentation:
 1. 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 7 or 8 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, *Modernism and Nativist Resistance*, 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 to 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

Required: course materials will be available on Canvas.

Recommended: *Modernism and Nativist Resistance: Contemporary Chinese Fiction from Taiwan* (electronic copy available via PCL).

****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.

Schedule

Week 1 Aug. 31 Introduction

Assignment:

Please watch the documentary *Tug of War: The Story of Taiwan* at the Fine Arts Library. Call number: VIDCASS 8555, and be prepared to discuss its contents in class in the next few weeks. Please pay special attention to the first 70 minutes or so.

Week 2 Sept. 5 Discussion of *Tug of War*; 燭
 7 燭

Week 3 12 燭
 14 永遠的尹雪艷

Week 4 19 永遠的尹雪艷
 21 永遠的尹雪艷

Week 5 26 第一件差事
 28 第一件差事

Week 6 Oct. 3 第一件差事
 5 Reports

Week 7 10 First Test
 12 蘋果的滋味

Week 8 17 蘋果的滋味
 19 蘋果的滋味

Week 9 24 自己的天空
 26 自己的天空

Week 10 31 自己的天空
 Nov. 2 Reports

Week 11 7 Second Test

		9	山路
Week 12		14	山路
		16	山路
Week 13		21	柴師父
		23	柴師父
Week 14		28	柴師父
		30	Thanksgiving
Week 15	Dec.	5	Reports & Course Instructor Survey
		7	Third Test