

Time: Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 13:20 p.m.

Venue: Room 4504

Instructor: Lisa L. M. Wong
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. (By appointment)

Course Description

Close readings of selected masterpieces of modern literature, mainly fiction and poetry by Chinese and Western authors of the 20th century. Texts will be read in English (including translations from Chinese, German, or French). The emphasis falls on the representative examples of high modernism from Europe. These literary works will be studied in relation to the dominant artistic and philosophical trends of their times. Students will learn to approach each text by an in-depth analysis of the “modern” aspects of human experience and literary style.

Course Requirements

There will be close reading of selected passages and thorough analysis of critical issues related to the texts. Students should read the assigned materials before class. This is a seminar course. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussion is highly commended. Students are required to write a term paper and do an open-book exam.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- a. do an in-depth analysis of the ideas in each work;
- b. examine and appreciate how the modernist techniques and post-modern writing help convey an author’s thoughts and feelings;
- c. compare how an author’s religious and cultural background has affected his/her intellectual perception and aesthetic treatment of a particular theme;
- d. use textual evidence to formulate and communicate their ideas in a critical and effective manner.

Syllabus and Schedule

<u>Week 1</u>	Course Introduction
<u>Weeks 1-3</u>	<i>Individual, Society, and History</i> Chow Tse-tsung, "Introduction," in <i>The May Fourth Movement: Intellectual Revolution in Modern China</i> (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1960), pp. 1-15. 魯迅：〈狂人日記〉 Lu Xun, "A Madman's Diary," trans. Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis"
<u>Weeks 3-6</u>	<i>Morality and Justice</i> Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Albert Camus, <i>The Outsider</i>
<u>Weeks 7-9</u>	<i>Time, Place, Memory, and Reality</i> Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane, "The Name and Nature of Modernism," in <i>Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930</i> (London: Penguin Books, 1991), pp. 19-29. T. S. Eliot's "Preludes" and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" André Breton, "Manifestoes of Surrealism" (excerpts) French Surrealist poems (Louis Aragon, André Breton, René Char, Paul Eluard) and symbolist poems (Baudelaire, Rimbaud)
<u>Weeks 10-11</u>	Stream of Consciousness Robert Humphrey, "Functions," in <i>Stream of Consciousness in the Modern Novel</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1955), pp. 1-22. Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
<u>Weeks 12-13</u>	New Novel and Metafiction Alain Robbe-Grille, <i>Jealousy</i> (selected episodes) 余華：〈十八歲出門遠行〉 Yu Hua, "On the Road at Eighteen," trans. Andrew F. Jones Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths"
<u>Week 13</u>	Review

Course Assessment

Class participation	30%	
Term Paper	30%	*27 October 2017 (Week 9)
Final Exam	40%	