

Division of Humanities

Course Code: HUMA 6001A
Course Title: Modern Fiction: Comparative Perspectives
Course Offered in: Spring 2020
Course Instructor: Professor Lianke Yan

Course Description: In this course, we will approach a number of representative fictions by contemporary Sinophone authors and their foreign counterparts. Through a parallel and comparative reading on the storytelling, form, and content, this course will analyze the differences and diversity between the East and the West, as well as Chinese literature and world literature. Authors to be studied include Pai Hsien-yung, Huang Chun-ming, Chu Hsi-ning, Zhang Dachun, and Wang Wen-hsing from Taiwan; Lillian Lee Pik-Wah and Wong Bik-wan from Hong Kong; Malaysian Chinese author Ng Kim Chew; alongside contemporary mainland authors Wang Zengqi, Wang Meng, Han Shaogong, Wang Anyi, Zhang Chengzhi, Mo Yan, Yu Hua, among others. Their works will be compared to literary works from overseas such as the United States, Britain, France, Czech Republic, Poland, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Africa, Hispanophone and Lusophone communities from Latin America. Writers and their works will be finalized shortly.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1	Identify, explain, and use cultural and literary concepts, theories, and models
2	Analyze significant cultural and literary phenomena related to Chinese past and present based on these cultural and literary concepts, theories and models
3	Analyze Chinese culture and literature in a global and cross-cultural comparative perspective based on the knowledge and skills of the Humanities from the programs
4	Articulate Chinese culture critically and analytically in a range of Humanities disciplines, including Literature
5	Conduct original cultural and literary research and participate effectively in project teams using an enhanced knowledge of Chinese culture and literature gained from the programs
6	Have their creativity and writing skills enhanced

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Tentative Course Syllabus

Weekly Topics:

1	Introduction to the course: The Home of Storytelling
2	The Distance of Fiction
3	Laws of Writing: Constitution, District, and Personal Laws
4	Passion and Silence of Narration
5	Exaggeration and Solemnity of Surrealism
6	Who is the True King of Narration?
7	Are Life Experiences Crucial for Fiction Writing?
8	History's Construction and Destruction to Fiction
9	Fixed and Fluid Temporalities in Literature
10	On the Divinity in Fiction
11	In Search of the Fictionality in "Non-fictions"
12	"Literary Lightweight" and the Ambiguous Life
13	Traps of Chinese Literature

Assessments:

Attendance:	10%
Presentation:	10%
Classroom participation:	10%
Writing assignments:	70%

Readings:

黃春明《蘋果的滋味》，1972 年發表於中國時報

王文興《黑衣》，2006 年洪范書店出版

張大春《將軍碑》，1986 年時報小說首獎

卡夫卡《在流放地》

謝爾·艾斯普馬克《失憶》

海明威《白象似的群山》

艾倫·金斯堡《嚎叫》

胡安·魯爾福《盧韋納》、《烈火平原》

紀德《浪子回家》

博爾赫斯《南方》

羅薩《河的第三條岸》

左琴科《猴子奇遇記》

奧康納《好人難尋》

魯迅《鑄劍》

川端康成《伊豆的舞女》

克萊兒·吉根《南極》

布魯諾·舒爾茨《沙漏做招牌的養老院》