FLCN 3510: Introduction to Chinese Culture in English

Instructor: Carolyn FitzGerald

MW 3:00-4:30 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10-11 a.m. or by appointment

Course Objectives:

In the turbulent decades of the early twentieth century, Chinese literature went through a dramatic period of change and self-evaluation. Called upon to adapt literature to revolutionary ends, writers of this period struggled not only with formal concerns like new literary idioms and modes of expression, but also with the question of Chinese identity itself: What did it mean to be Chinese in a newly international world? What did it mean to be “modern”? This course will examine the incredibly diverse fiction that emerged from this period, focusing in particular on themes of realism and revolution; science and nationalism; gender and problems of “voice,” and questions of autobiography.

Course Prerequisite: None

Requirements:

1. There will be a mid-term and a final exam.
2. At the beginning of each class you must hand in a brief book review of that day’s readings to demonstrate that you have prepared for class and discussion. These will be graded on a “credit/no credit” basis. PLEASE INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READINGS IN EACH REPORT.
3. All students will be required to complete a final project, which you will present to the class during the final week of the semester. The topic of the project must be closely related to readings we have completed during the semester and must be selected after consultation with and approval from the instructor.
4. Your grade will be based on a combination of the following: your mid-term (25%) and final exam (30%); your final project (25%); your class attendance (10%); and your book reviews (10%) handed in at each class.

This is a discussion-based course. Therefore you will be expected to come prepared to each class, ready to discuss the readings. You should read the materials well in advance – do not read them at the very last minute before class. Try to allow yourself time to absorb them and think of some questions, comments,
or concerns that they bring up for you. You may wish to bring up the questions in
class that you’ve listed in the reviews that you hand in each week.

Course Policies:

• Class attendance is required.

• Academic Honesty: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic
dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in
the Tiger Cub.

• Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting during the first
week of class. Please bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification
Form. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special
accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with
Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

• Students may withdraw (with a W on their transcript) prior to midsemester.

• Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

• The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.

• All readings are to be completed before coming to class.

Textbooks:

Lu Xun. *Diary of a Madman and Other Stories*. Tr. William Lyell. Honolulu:

Rickshaw, by Lao She

Reader – please purchase at Sofy Copy on Magnolia Ave.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Beginnings of Mass Culture

1. Lee, Leo: *Shanghai Modern*. pp. 3 – 42. (library reserve)

Week 3: A Grim Prognosis

**Week 4: The Everyman and the Degenerate**


**Week 5: The Degenerate**

1. Yu Dafu – Preface (reader)
2. Yu Dafu “Sinking” (reader)
3. Yu Dafu "Nights of Spring Fever" (reader)

**Week 6: Experiments**

2. Shi Zhecun, “Devil’s Road,” (reader)

**Week 7: Mid-term Exam**

1. Introduction to *I Myself am a Woman* (reader)
2. Ding Ling, “Miss Sophie’s Diary” (reader)

**Week 8: An Extraordinary Novel**

1. Ding Ling, “When I Was in Xia Village” (reader)
2. Xiao Hong, “Hands” (reader)
3. Xiao Hong, *Market Street* (first half, reader)

**Week 9: Market Street continued, and The Country Boy**

1. Xiao Hong, *Market Street* (second half, reader)
2. Shen Congwen, “Xiaoxiao” (reader)

**Week 10: Country Boy, continued**
1. Shen Congwen, “Three Men and One Woman” (in reader)

**Week 11: Rickshaw**

1. Read the first half of Rickshaw, by Lao She.
2. Read the second half of Rickshaw, by Lao She.

**Week 12: Poetry**

2. Kuo Mo-jo, Selected Poems and Preface (reader)

**Week 13: Poetry, Love**


**Week 14: Full Circle**

1. Lu Xun, “Remembrances of the Past,” in Lyell
2. Lu Xun, “A Happy Family”

**Week 15: In-class Projects**

**Final Exam Given at the University set time and date**
Bibliography


Additional:


