

# cīee Study Center in Shanghai, China

**Course number:** EAST 3005 CSHA

**Course name:** Special Topics in Chinese Studies II:  
Modern and Contemporary Chinese Society in Literature

**Language of instruction:** English

**Course meeting times:** Wednesdays, 3:10-6:00 p.m. plus one or more fieldtrips

**Course meeting place:** College of International Chinese Studies, Room 503, ECNU

**Instructor:** Dr. Li, Yanfeng

**Contact information:** Office: 62523436, ext. 15; Mobile: 13611837075; Email: yli@cīee.org

**Office address:** Room 1403, 1281 Dingxi Road, second storey

**Office hours:** Mon. and Wed. 10:00–11:00 a.m. or by appointment

**Contact hours:** Forty-five

**Recommended credit:** Three

## Course Description

Modern Chinese literature starts in 1919 and the contemporary period usually refers to the years after 1976. While most U.S. courses on modern Chinese literature focus on the Republican period (1919-1949), this course will focus on the post-1976 period, selecting literary works that are not widely taught outside China and that directly relate to life in China today. China has made some of the most dramatic changes in its history during the thirty years after 1976, and the literary works created in this period have surpassed even those produced during the Republican period in many aspects. Through the magnifying lens of literature, the course will closely examine the culture and social changes during this period.

## Learning Objectives

Students will learn to contextualize modern and contemporary Chinese literature within specific historical periods and eras as a means to analyze and understand literature not just as an art but as an expression of social change. In other words, the historical use of literature for the purpose of addressing social problems and as a vehicle for social development in China is the main concern of this course.

## Course Requirements

### **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is very important for this course, as missing one day's class means missing a whole week's classes. Past records show that many students' grades were lowered mainly because they had poor attendance. Whether a student actively participates in class discussion will also affect the grade of this category. It is very important to read the materials before class in order to be able to join the discussion.

### **Preview Quizzes and Homework**

The preview quizzes are for checking if students have read the assigned readings before coming to class. The quizzes may be given at the beginning of a class or through email in advanced in the form of homework. Students are usually asked to provide brief answers for several questions.

### **Reading**

Course readers will be distributed to students. Additional reading materials will be handed out by the instructor throughout the semester. Students are expected to read approximately 100 pages of fiction per week, critically think over the questions provided by the instructor, and participate actively in classroom discussion based on the readings.

## **Writing Assignments**

There will be three 750-1,000 word essays and one final research paper of 2,000-3,000 words in length, not including bibliography. One of the three essays may be substituted by your translation of part of a Chinese short story into English.

All written assignments should be formatted with double line spacing and typed using a 12-point font and include proper footnotes and bibliography of works cited. The preferred citation style for footnotes and bibliography for all written assignments is the Chicago Documentary-Note Style (also called the Chicago Humanities Style).

## **Methods of Instruction**

In addition to lectures by the instructor and critical classroom discussions, instruction will be enhanced by multimedia: occasional movies and TV plays based on the stories studied will be shown in class, and MP3 music from selected Chinese folk and popular songs will be sent to students through email to help students study and understand the lyrics, which are read in class as modern poetry.

## **Assessment and Final Grade**

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Participation:	10%
Preview Quizzes and Homework:	20%
Three writing assignments:	30% (10% each)
Final research paper:	30%

Assignments overdue without a valid reason will have points deducted.

## **Area Studies Writing Workshop (ASWW)**

Any student who attends and completes the requirements for either Area Studies Writing Workshop will receive a one-week extension by the area studies professor on any new paper that has been developed and peer edited in the ASWW, or will have a chance to revise an essay for consideration of an improved grade by the area studies professor.

## **Weekly Schedule** (Subject to change)

<b>Week 1</b> Sept. 3-7	<b>Orientation Week</b> Read: Lu Xun's "Diary of Mad Man" and Shi Zhecun's "A Rainy Evening"
<b>Week 2</b> Sept. 12	<b>Republican Period Literature (1919-1949): The Countryside</b> General introduction to modern and contemporary Chinese literature Discuss: Lu Xun, "Diary of a Madman" and Shi Zhecun: "A Rainy Evening"
<b>Week 3</b> Sept. 19	<b>Republican Period Literature (1919-1949): The Countryside and the City</b> Discuss: Lu Xun, "Ah Q, The Real Story"
<b>Week 4</b> Sept. 26	<b>Literature concerning the war (1940s-50s)</b> Discuss: Ru Zhijuan, "Lilies" Discuss: "Sky Burial, "Chapters 1-3"
	<u>First essay due:</u> 12 p.m., September 22 (Saturday)
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>National Holiday Week</b>

Read: "Sky Burial" Chapters 4-9 and Chang Jung's "Wild Swans" (Chapters 15-21)

**Week 6**  
Oct. 10

**Literature Concerning the Cultural Revolution (1976-1989)**

Discuss: Read "Sky Burial" Chapters 4-9, "Wild Swans", Chapters 15-21

Second essay due: 12 p.m., Oct. 13 (Saturday)

**Week 7**  
Oct. 17

**Literature Concerning the Cultural Revolution (1976-1989)**

Discuss: Chang Jung, "Wild Swans" (Chapters 22-27)

**Week 8**  
Oct. 24

**Literature Concerning the Cultural Revolution (1976-1989)**

Discuss: Liu Xinwu, "White Teeth" and another story to be determined

**Week 9**  
Oct. 27-  
Nov. 2

**Educational Field Trip, No Class**

Read: "Wheat" (translated by former CIEE students) and another story to be determined

**Week 10**  
Nov. 7

**Root Searching Literature (1976-1989)**

Lecture: Literature of pastoral themes and place: "searching for roots"

Discuss: Han Shaogang, "Homecoming?" and another story to be determined

Third essay due: First essay due: 12 p.m., Nov. 10 (Saturday)

**Week 11**  
Nov. 14

**Boomtown and Changing Values Literature (1989-Present)**

Lecture: changing values: family, marriage, infidelity, divorce, prostitution

Discuss: "Wheat" and another story to be determined

**Week 12**  
Nov. 21

**Boomtown and Changing Values Literature: Literature of the Internet Age (2000 to Present)**

Stories to be determined

Final Paper topic and a 1-page outline due: 12 p. m., Dec. 24, Saturday (a list of suggestions will be given by the instructor before this date)

**Week 13**  
Nov. 28

**Environmental Literature (1989-Present)**

Lecture: Literature on environmental concerns and the relationship between humans and nature

Discuss: Guo Xuebo, "The Desert Wolf"

**Week 14**  
Dec. 5

**Environmental Literature (1989-Present)**

Discuss: Guo Xuebo, "Sand Burial"

**Week 15**  
Dec. 12

**Conclusions and Final Paper Workshop**

**Final paper due:** Friday, December 14, 5:00 p.m.

Please send a hard copy to the instructor's office and send an electronic version to: yli@ciece.org.

**Required Readings**

Chang, Jung. *Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China*. London: Touchstone, 2003.

Guo Xuebo. *The Dessert Wolf*. Beijing: Chinese Literature Press, 1996.

Han, Shaogong. *Homecoming? and Other Stories*. Boston: Cheng & Tsui, 1995.

Jia, Pingwa. *Turbulence*. New York: Grove Press, 1987.  
Lau, Joseph S. M., Goldblatt, Howard. *The Columbia anthology of modern Chinese literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.  
Liu, Xinwu. "White Teach." *Black Walls and Other Stories*. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press, 1990.  
Lu, Xun. *Diary of a Mad Man*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2002.  
Ru, Zhijuan. *Lily and Other Stories*. Beijing: China Books and Periodicals, 1983.  
Shi, Zhecun. *One Rainy Evening*. Beijing: Panda Books, 1994.  
Xinran. *Sky Burial*, New York: Anchor Books, 2004.

**Recommended Readings** (Please contact instructor to borrow below references for your research)

Chen, Jianing, ed. *Themes in Contemporary Chinese Literature*. Beijing: New World Press, 1993.  
Chi, Pang-yuan and David Der-wei Wang. *Chinese Literature in the Second Half of a Modern Century*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2000.  
Goldblatt, Howard. *Chairman Mao Would Not be Amused*. New York: Grove Press, 1995.  
Hsia, C. T. *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1999.  
Jiang, Zilong. *All the Colours of the Rainbow*. Beijing: Panda Books, 1983.  
Liu, Xinwu. *Black Walls and Other Stories*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 1990.  
Zhang, Xudong. *Chinese Modernism in the Era of Reforms*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1997.  
Zhang, Yingjin. *The City in Modern Chinese Literature and Film, Configurations of Space, Time, and Gender*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1996.