

Tuesdays, 17.45 to 20.45 (*vid. infra* schedule)

Room: 20.107

Carles Prado-Fonts

Office: 20.255

Office hours: by appointment

## **DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a survey of the literature written in Chinese language from the end of the 19th century until the beginning of the 21st century. From a chronological perspective, the course covers the periods known as *qingmo* (late-Qing), *xiandai* (modern) and *dangdai* (contemporary). From a geographical perspective, the course includes works from Chinese literature (PRC) and Sinophone literature (Taiwan, Hong Kong and diaspora).

Throughout the sessions, three main categories will be discussed in interrelation: (a) main authors, schools and works of Chinese and Sinophone literature; (b) the literary and intellectual history within which these works were conceived, produced and circulated; (c) some basic theoretical approaches.

Knowledge of Chinese language is not required (all the assigned texts will be in translation), although specific references to relevant issues of language will be made occasionally for students who are familiar with Chinese language. In any case, these references will not be part of the evaluation. The course will be taught in English. Papers, reading assignments and exams will be accepted in any of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French. Although students are encouraged to use English to participate in the class discussions, they are also free to use Catalan or Spanish language for that purpose.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Display a familiarity with the main chronology and literary developments of the last 150 years, including the late-Qing, modern and contemporary periods.
- Recognize the main differences and similarities between Chinese and Sinophone literature.
- Develop a critical understanding of the main authors and works of Chinese and Sinophone literature.
- Relate the literary phenomena studied with the historical and sociocultural context in which they are embedded.
- Display a familiarity with general references of primary and secondary works related to Chinese and Sinophone literature.

## GENERAL REFERENCES

For each thematic unit, the instructor will indicate specific relevant bibliography. Main general references for the whole course—regarding both primary texts and secondary bibliography—are the following:

Denton, Kirk A., ed. *Modern Chinese Literary Thought: Writings on Literature, 1893-1945*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1996.

Hong, Zicheng. *A History of Contemporary Chinese Literature*. Trad. Michael Day. Leiden: Brill, 2007.

Lau, Joseph and Howard Goldblatt, eds. *Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

McDougall, Bonnie and Kam Louie. *The Literature of China in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Mostow, Joshua, ed. *The Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

MCLC Resource Center: <http://mclc.osu.edu>

## METHODOLOGY

Students are required to regularly attend the sessions and actively participate in class discussions about the primary and secondary texts assigned. Regarding the temporalization of readings, please see the schedule at end of this syllabus.

Student participation and preparedness are crucial. Students are therefore required to read the assigned text before class and must come to class ready to engage in debates and discussions. To facilitate class discussion, they are required to bring to class reaction papers, files or annotations that can facilitate active and critical interaction: plot and ideas related to each piece, questions generated, etc.

Specifically, before each section students must:

- a) Read the assigned section(s) from chapters 4 and 5 of *Narratives xineses* in order to contextualize the historical period, literary currents and specific writers to be examined. Students are encouraged to record doubts, comments, critical observations and bring them to class.
- b) Read the assigned primary readings (literary texts). Students are encouraged to record doubts, comments, critical observations and bring them to class.

All the required readings (in addition to a few supplementary texts that students are free to consult before or after each session) will be available through the Moodle platform, except the following works, which the student will have to purchase or borrow:

Martínez-Robles, David i Carles Prado-Fonts, eds. *Narratives xineses: ficcions i altres formes de no-literatura*. Barcelona: EDIUOC, 2008.  
[There is also a Spanish version: *Narrativas chinas: ficciones y otras formas de no-literatura*.]

Lu Xun. *Diari d'un boig i altres relats*. Barcelona: Edicions de 1984, 2007.  
[There are also many versions of Lu Xun's short stories in Chinese, Spanish or English, among many other foreign languages.]

Yu Hua. *¡Vivir!* Barcelona: Seix Barral, 2010. [There are also many versions of this novel in Chinese or English, among many other foreign languages.]

Gao Xingjian. *El Llibre d'un home sol*. Barcelona: Columna, 2001. [There are also many versions of this novel in Chinese or English, among many other foreign languages.]

## **GRADING**

General observations:

- Methodologically, this course does not incorporate any virtual or distance version for students with difficulties in attending class sessions. This course is conceived under the assumption that students will attend the

lectures and participate in the class discussions as part of the process of achieving the learning outcomes of the course.

- The final test will be scheduled only in the specific day mentioned in this syllabus. No changes of date, time and other alternatives will be offered.

The final grade of the course will be calculated by combining three aspects: class grades, a short paper and a final test. It is necessary to have attended a minimum of 70% of class sessions. The overall course grade composition is as follows:

*Class: 30%*

This includes attendance and participation in debates and discussions, proactive attitude in all aspects of the course. This also includes one-minute papers written at the end of the sessions on a specific topic selected by the instructor.

*Final test: 40%*

The test will mainly include short, specific questions (about genres, authors, concepts). For these specific questions the use of notes, readings or electronic devices will not be allowed. It can also include occasional general, thematic questions. DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 17:45.

*Paper: 30%*

A short paper (3-5 pages) dealing with a specific topic proposed by the instructor or answering a question asked by the instructor. DEADLINE: The topic/question will be announced one week before the final exam. The paper is due at the end of the first week of the following term.

Note:

Students who fail the course will be allowed to retake the final test in a longer, more comprehensive form. In this case, the grade of this second test will represent 100% of the final grade. This test will have to be taken during the last week of the following term. Please contact the instructor for further details.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS**

Session 1: 01/10/2013

**Introduction**

**Late-Qing**

Required reading:

- Liu E. *Los viajes del buen doctor Can*. Fragment.

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 116-130.
- Liang Qichao. "On the Relationship Between Fiction and..."
- Yan Fu. "Prólogo a la traducción china de..."
- Lin Shu. "Preface to Part One of *David Copperfield*"
- Lin Shu. "Preface to *Oliver Twist*"

**08/10/2013**

**Reading week**

Session 2: 15/10/2013

**Lu Xun**

Required readings:

- Lu Xun. *Diari d'un boig i altres relats*.

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 130-141, 144-152.
- Hu Shi. "Some Modest Proposals for the Reform of Literature".
- Yu Dafu. "Sangre y lágrimas".
- Mao Dun. "La segunda generación".

Session 3: 22/10/2013

**Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies literature**

**Modernism**

Required readings:

- Zhu Shouju. "The Confidence in the Game".
- Shi Zhecun. "One Evening in the Rainy Season".

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 141-143, 152-159.
- Wong, Timothy. "Afterword," *Stories for Saturday*.
- Dai Wangshu, Wen Yiduo. Selections.
- Zhou Zuoren. "Reading on the Toilet".

Session 4: 29/10/2013

**Shen Congwen**

**Zhang Ailing**

Required readings:

- Shen Congwen. "El marido".
- Zhang Ailing. "Sealed Off".

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 159-163.

Session 5: 05/11/2013

**Xiao Hong**

**Ding Ling**

- Xiao Hong, "Las manos".
- Ding Ling. "When I Was in Xia Village".

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 165-172.
- Mao Zedong. "Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art".

Session 6: 12/11/2013

**Postmaoism**

Required readings:

- Wang Anyi. "Lao Kang Came Back".
- Han Shaogong. "Homecoming".

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 172-186.
- Yu Hua. "On the Road at Eighteen".
- Zhang Jie. "Love Must Not Be Forgotten".

Session 7: 19/11/2013

**Yu Hua**

Required readings:

- Yu Hua. *¡Vivir!*

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 186-194.

Session 8: 26/11/2013

**Sinophone literature**

**Hybrid literature**

Required readings:

- Chen Ruoxi. "The Execution of Mayor Yin".
- Ha Jin. "The Woman from New York".

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 195-210.
- Wang Wenxing. "Flaw".
- Huang Chunming. "Sayonara/Zaijian".
- Zhu Tianwen. "Fin de Siècle Splendor".

**03/12/2013**

**Reading week**

Session 9: 10/12/2013

**Gao Xingjian**

Required readings:

- Gao Xingjian. *El llibre d'un home sol*.

Supplementary readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 211-214.

Session 10: 17/12/2013

**Review**

**Final test**