

Tuesdays, 18.00 to 21.00 (*vid. infra* schedule)

Room: 20.191

Carles Prado-Fonts

Office: 20.271

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.

UNITS

Thematic unities and clusters of analysis for the sessions will be the following:

Late Qing. May Fourth. Realism. Lu Xun. Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies. Modernism. War period. Maoism and revolutionary literature. The 1980s: postmaoism. The 1990s: literature and the market. Sinophone literature: Taiwan and diaspora. Hybrid literature. Gao Xingjian.

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.

- Final exam 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 two aspects: class grades (attendance, active participation, quality and preparation of the discussions) and a final exam. It is necessary to have attended a minimum of 70% of class sessions. The overall course grade composition is as follows:

Class: 40%

This includes attendance and participation in debates and discussions, proactive attitude in all aspects of the course.

Final exam: 60%

The exam will have two parts. In the first part, the use of notes and readings will not be allowed. This part will include short, specific questions (about genres, authors, concepts) or general, thematic questions. In the second part, notes and readings will be allowed. This part will include more general questions of interrelation or critical comments on topics, authors, readings. DATE: Tuesday, December 20, 18:00.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Session 1: 27/09/2011

Introduction

Late-Qing

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 116-130.
- Liu E. *Los viajes del buen doctor Can*. Fragment.

Supplementary readings:

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

Session 2: 04/10/2011

May Fourth

Realism

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 130-134, 139-141, 144-152.
- Yu Dafu. "Sangre y lágrimas".
- Xiao Hong. "Las manos".

Supplementary readings:

- Hu Shi. "Some Modest Proposals for the Reform of Literature".
- Mao Dun. "La segunda generación".

Session 3: 11/10/2011

**Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies literature
Modernism**

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 141-143, 152-159.
- Zhu Shouju. "The Confidence in the Game".
- Shi Zhecun. "One Evening in the Rainy Season".

Supplementary readings:

- Wong, Timothy. "Afterword," *Stories for Saturday*.
- Dai Wangshu, Wen Yiduo. Selections.
- Zhou Zuoren. "Reading on the Toilet".

Session 4: 18/10/2011

Lu Xun

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 134-139.
- Lu Xun. *Diari d'un boig i altres relats*.

Session 5: 25/10/2011

**War period
Maoism and revolutionary literature**

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 159-163, 165-172.
- Zhang Ailing. "Sealed Off".
- Ding Ling. "When I Was in Xia Village".

Supplementary readings:

- Shen Congwen. "El marido".
- Mao Zedong. "Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art".

01/11/2011 and 08/11/2011

Reading weeks

Session 6: 15/11/2011

The 1980s: postmaoism

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 172-186.
- Wang Anyi. "Lao Kang Came Back".
- Han Shaogong. "Homecoming".

Supplementary readings:

- Yu Hua. "On the Road at Eighteen".
- Zhang Jie. "Love Must Not Be Forgotten".

Session 7: 22/11/2011

The 1990s: literature and the market

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 186-194.
- Yu Hua. *¡Vivir!*

Session 8: 29/11/2011

**Sinophone literature: Taiwan, Hong Kong and diaspora
Hybrid literature**

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 195-203, 203-210.
- Huang Chunming. "Sayonara/Zaijian".
- Zhu Tianwen. "Fin de Siècle Splendor".

Supplementary readings:

- Wang Wenxing. "Flaw".
- Ha Jin. "The Woman from New York".
- Chen Ruoxi. "Another Fortress Besieged".

06/12/2011

Reading week

Session 9: 13/12/2011

Gao Xingjian

Required readings:

- Prado-Fonts, p. 211-214.
- Gao Xingjian. *El llibre d'un home sol*.

Session 10: 20/12/2011

Final exam

Language

English