

CHIN 1040/6040  
2022 年秋

**Toward Modernity: Chinese Literature, Culture and Film in the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century**  
**走向现代：中国 20 世纪文学、文化、电影**

**Texts**

Short stories and essays by 20th-century Chinese writers. Downloadable PDF texts are posted on Canvas.

**Course Description**

This course is designed for students who have completed a minimum of four years of college level Mandarin classes or equivalent. This course fulfills language requirement for Chinese major or minor, and elective requirement for Chinese major.

The objectives of the course are three-fold: 1) to facilitate the development of students' advanced reading and writing proficiency; 2) to help students gain an in-depth, multi-faceted and non-judgmental perspective of Chinese people, society and culture; and 3) to develop students' analytical and critical thinking skills when evaluating literary works. These objectives are achieved primarily through close reading and discussion of original literary texts by 20<sup>th</sup>- century Chinese writers. Observing the similarities and differences in texts created in different cultural or sociopolitical background and uncovering the implications behind them will be our main approach. The emphasis of the reading does not rest so much on understanding each sentence as on grasping the global meaning of a longer discourse. Writing and translation exercises are regularly assigned. The writing exercises focuses on expressing ideas accurately, coherently and appropriately. Class discussions address both linguistic and literary questions. In order to broaden your understanding as well as enhance your appreciation of modern Chinese literature as a whole, the reading texts are diverse in terms of time, geographical area and ideology. We will also view several Chinese films that are related to the topics of the reading text. The class is conducted exclusively in Chinese.

**Expectations**

The following conducts are expected from students:

- finish reading assignments by the date indicated on the schedule and annotate as you read
- complete various homework assignments on time and submit them on Canvas
- actively participate in class discussion
- keep an open mind of different perspectives and opinions
- respect other people's intellectual property

***Portfolio, Essays and Short Response Papers***

I. The portfolio (作文集) is a very important component of this course. It is designed to help you improve your writing skill in Chinese step by step. Your portfolio should have three (3) narrative entries with the following topics, not necessarily in this order:

1. 关于你自己 (小型自传 mini-autobiography)
2. 一个你熟悉的人 (叙人 describing a person)

### 3. 一件你亲身经历或亲耳听到的事（叙事 describing an event）

Each narrative (2-3 pages, double-space) **must have a title**. Expect revisions! **The final portfolio should include all three revised drafts**. The narratives and the final portfolio will receive separate grades. The main grading criteria of the narratives are **clear and coherent story line, relevant details and accurate language usage**, not the opinions or ideas you expressed. The grade of the portfolio rests heavily on the quality of your revision(s) as well as your overall improvement during the course. The portfolio will be published via Book Creator (see Assignments in Canvas for detail).

II. The two essay（论文） topics will be posted on Canvas. They will be related to the stories/essays we read in class. In grading essays, my attention shifts from your language usage to your understanding and analysis of the stories/essays. That does not mean, however, that you can write a poorly presented paper. **A clearly presented central theme and coherently organized argument is essential**. Some students may, **with my approval**, write a summary of the story/stories plus a short commentary in lieu of the essay.

III. You'll also write three very short response papers（读后感）. These are assigned early in the semester. They are intended: 1) for you to get comfortable in reading and writing formal Chinese, and 2) for me to get a feel of your reading and writing proficiency.

### ***Leading Discussion***

You will lead class discussion one time during the course of the semester. You should **meet with me a few days before** your discussion and prepare 5-7 content related questions. The questions should be able to generate discussion and deepen our understanding of the reading. I will give revising suggestions to these questions during our meeting. The *revised* questions should be sent back to me via email attachment at least two hours before class time so I can post them on Canvas. As you lead the discussion, it is extremely important to think of ways to stimulate the class when it falls silent. Merely repeating the questions may not do the trick.

Grading criteria: a) preparation（课前准备）, b) organization（讨论效果）, c) language usage（语言使用）

### ***Mini-research Project and Presentation***

The chief goal of this project（研究项目） is to provide guided training in independent research. Each student will choose a topic that is relevant to the content of this course, and conduct a small but in depth research on the topic. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of your research results, and orally present it in class（口头报告）. A short class discussion or Q & A session will follow the presentation. Specifics about the project will be posted on Canvas.

### ***Attendance & Participation***

Regular attendance is expected. Any absence notices should be submitted at the Course Action Notices site through a link on [Path@Penn](mailto:Path@Penn). You are permitted five (5) absences for any reason, after which **each additional absence will result in a 1% point reduction from your final grade**. Tardiness of 20-minutes or more is counted as absence. There are no “excused absences” – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material

covered.

The purpose of the Course Absence Report system is to facilitate communication between instructors and students when a student misses class. The system allows you to inform the instructor about absences of five days or less. If the absence is more than five days, you should contact your home school advising office for assistance and to discuss the academic implications of a longer absence.

You are expected to actively participate in class discussion. By exposing to different perspectives, observing similarities and differences at a personal level, class discussion is one of the most effective ways to get to know one another and build our class community. Finishing reading in advance is the key to ensure good participation. I strongly encourage everyone to speak up his/her mind during class and pay attention to your classmates' comments. Silence and put away your cell phone and **DO NOT TEXT** during class.

### **Assessment**

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Essays (论文)                           | 20% (10% X 2)   |
| Writing portfolio narratives (叙述文)    | 20% (3 entries) |
| <i>Perusall</i> annotations (阅读记录)    | 10%             |
| Short response papers (读后感)           | 5%              |
| Final exam (期末考试)                     | 10%             |
| Leading discussion (带领讨论)             | 10%             |
| Mini-research project (微型研究报告)        | 15%             |
| Class attendance & participation (出勤) | 10%             |