

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**  
**Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures**  
**Spring Semester 2021**

**Class time:** MW 1:30-2:45 pm

Zoom: <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/92138554398>

Passcode: 815227

**Office hours:** MW 4:30-5:30 & by appointment

Zoom: <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/804305159>

Passcode: 900513

**Instructor:** Dr. Yun Peng

Email: [pengy@hawaii.edu](mailto:pengy@hawaii.edu)

**EALL 363 C Twentieth-Century Chinese Literature and Culture, 1949-Present**

## DESCRIPTION

This upper-level undergraduate course is a survey of Chinese literature in the second half of the twentieth century and beginning of the twenty-first century. The materials are organized in a roughly chronological order, with emphasis on recurring themes and motifs. The guiding question is the way in which literature engages the Chinese experience. Students will gain an understanding of the main issues and broad trends, while also becoming attuned to the dialogic nature of writing. Through close reading exercises and discussions, students will also acquire basic skills that allow them to formulate historically informed and formally attentive interpretations of modern Chinese texts. The class will be conducted in seminar style, with an emphasis on interactive discussions supplemented by lectures.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will

- Be familiar with major literary motifs, stylistic features, and cultural themes of the period surveyed.
- Acquire skills for in-depth literary analysis through practice.
- Be able to draw critical connections between literary texts and their historical contexts.
- Be able to demonstrate the above abilities in writing.

## POLICIES

- **Academic integrity**

Plagiarism (including copying from the Internet) is a serious violation of academic ethics and may lead to suspension. Check the UH catalogue or website for definitions of plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and how violation of UH regulations and rules will be dealt with. As the website cautions: "Ignorance of these definitions will not provide an excuse for acts of academic dishonesty."

<http://www.hawaii.edu/student/conduct/>

- **Disability policy**

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she should notify the instructor and contact the Kokua program at 956-7511 or visit Student Services Center, room 13.

- **Zoom**

The course will require pair/group activities via Zoom. Students are required to turn on their video and audio during these activities. If you have concern over this requirement, please discuss them with me.

- **Electronic submission**

When submitting assignments through the Laulima dropbox, please use **pdf format**; in the document title, please include your full name and the description of the assignment. For example, “yun peng midterm.pdf.”

- **Grades**

Following university guidelines, C indicates work that meets the course requirements in every way; B is given when student performance significantly exceeds the course requirements; A is an honor grade reserved for outstanding achievement.

The grade distribution is designed to reward consistent effort throughout the semester. Improvements will be duly reflected. Students who are concerned about their performance (or seeking general feedback) are encouraged to talk to me as early as possible. Do not wait till it is too late. Once the final grades are posted, they are not negotiable unless there are errors involved.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- **Attendance (5%)**

Students are expected to attend all classes. **More than four unexcused absences will affect the final grade for the course.** More than ten will result in automatic failure of the course, regardless of the student's prior standing. Late arrivals exceeding 15 minutes will count as full absences. Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented. Airline reservations and other travel plans do not constitute excused absences.

Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts **from fellow students**. Work assigned in a student's absence will not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

- **Participation (10%)**

I expect you to read all assigned texts with care, take notes and come to class with informed thoughts to contribute to class discussion.

Active participation in class is encouraged and required. Disagreements are welcome, provided that they are supported by thoughtful reasoning and presented in a manner respectful of others' positions. Listening carefully and working with others in groups are also essential aspects of participation.

- **Online homework (30%)**

In this assignment you will practice close reading and work together as a group. Details will be handed out in a separate sheet.

- **Basic exercises (20%)**

Students are required to complete three basic reading exercises. The instructions will be handed out in advance.

- ❖ Structure/narrative arc (2-3 pages): due on 2/11
- ❖ Patterns and associations (3 pages): due on 3/12

- **Analysis paper (15%)**

Students are required to complete one analysis papers (3-4 pages) on a topic to be handed out in advance.

- Analysis paper: due on 4/9

- **Final essay (20%)**

A six-page essay to be completed at the end of the semester. To receive a grade for this assignment, you must submit a draft (3-4 pages). I will comment on your draft and make suggestions for revision. The topic will be discussed in advance.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Attendance (5%)
- Participation (10%)
- Online homework (~10 pages) (30%)
- Two basic reading exercises (6-8 pages) (20%)
- Analysis paper (3 pages) (15%)
- Final essay (6 pages with revision) (20%)

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Yan Ge, *The Chili Bean Paste Clan*.

### SCHEDULE

#### Week 1 (1/11, 1/13)

Introduction

Watch:

*China: A Century of Revolution* (PBS documentary)

[I. China in Revolution, 1911-1949](#)

[II. The Mao Years](#)

[III. Born Under the Red Flag](#) (in 12 parts; [alternative link to part 3](#))

Read:

Bei Dao, Bei Dao, “Declaration”; “Resume”; “Another Legend”

Gu Cheng, “One Generation”

#### Week 2 (1/20)

Liu Heng, “Dogshit food”

**No class on Jan. 18.**

#### Week 3 (1/25, 1/27)

Wang Xiaoni, “Locomotive”

Ah Cheng, “The King of Chess”

**Week 4** (2/1, 2/3)

Ah Cheng, "The King of Chess" (continued)

**Week 5** (2/8, 2/9)

Wang Anyi, "Brothers"

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**Structure/narrative arc exercise due on Friday 2/11****Week 6** (2/17)

Wang Anyi, "Brothers" (continued)

**No class on Feb. 15.****Week 7** (2/22, 2/24)

Lee Yew Leong, "Knowledge Will Change Your Fate"

Yan Ge, "Sissy Zhong"

Zhang Yueran, "Binary"

**Week 8** (3/1, 3/3)

Li Jingrui, "Missing"

Wang Xiaoni, "Meeting Death's Envoy on a Winter Afternoon" (listen [here](#)) and other poems**Week 9** (3/8, 3/10)

Yerkex Hurmanbek, "The Eternal Lamb"

Alat Asem, "Sidik Goldern MobOff"

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**Patterns and associations exercise due on Friday 3/12****Spring break****Week 10** (3/22, 3/24)

Li Juan, "Suddenly Coming into My Own"; "Twenty Centimeters to Spring"; "The Pink Coach"; "The Strange Bank at Kawutu"

**Week 11** (3/29, 3/31)

Chen Quifan, "The Year of the Rat"

**Week 12** (4/5, 4/7)

Xia Jia, "Good Night, Melancholy"

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**Analysis paper due on Friday 4/9****Week 13** (4/12, 4/14)

Dorothy Tse, "Notes on an Epidemic"

Jacky Yuen, "Bone Down"

**Week 14** (4/19, 4/21)Yan Ge, *The Chili Bean Paste Clan*

**Week 15** (4/26, 4/28)

Yan Ge, *The Chili Bean Paste Clan* (continued)

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**Final draft due on Thursday 4/29**

**Week 16** (5/3, 5/5)

Han Dong, "The Cry of the Deer"

Chen Cun, "Piano Twilight"

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**Final essay due on Thursday 5/13 (11:59 pm)**