Pro-seminar I: Critical Approaches to East Asian Studies
Fall 2013

Instructor:
Professor Weijie SONG (宋伟杰)
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Office Hours: W 3:00-4:00pm; or by appointment (322 Scott Hall)

Class Hours and Classroom:
W 4:30am-7:30pm; Scott Hall 332

Course Description:
The object of this course is to familiarize graduate students with the major paradigms of literary and cultural studies in order to help students generate critical contexts for analyzing and understanding East Asian literature and culture in a comparative framework. The readings consist of works of East Asian literature and culture and critical materials on those selected major texts. The seminar takes up a wide but interrelated range of issues. Emphasis will be placed on careful reading and thoughtful discussion of weekly assignments. This class meets for three hours each week, during which students respond to the texts and engage in group discussion. In addition to class discussion, students are required to participate in Sakai class discussions to post comments and share insights before each session.

(Please note: The course number is 501 and temporarily assigned as a 598 Special Topics Course. Please register for it under 16:217:598)

Requirements and Grading:
1) Attendance, Participation, Sakai posting and Oral presentation (30%): Since this class emphasizes focused discussions of each week's readings, it is essential that students come to class having read all of the assigned materials carefully and prepared to engage actively in the discussion. Students should bring a copy of each week's readings. Regular attendance is thus expected. If an absence is unavoidable, the student must consult with the instructor beforehand and make-up work will be assigned.

For each week's readings, students will be designated to post a reading response (approximately 500-700 words) by midnight three days before each session starts. These responses should begin with a summary of the key points of the theoretical and/or critical texts at hand and comment on the relevance or usefulness of reading the literary works within the given theoretical framework. These responses may include ideas, reflections and questions that arise during the reading of the texts. They may also address larger issues or make comparison with other readings. Others are required to have read each week's postings before class in order to
participate in group discussion. Those assigned to oral presentations will also be responsible for presenting on that week’s readings at the beginning of class. The 10-minute oral presentation should summarize and elaborate on the points made in the Sakai posting. To post a response, log into the Sakai site (https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal), choose the page for this class, click on “Discussion and Private Messages” and then click on “Class Discussions” for the relevant week.

2) **Papers (40%)**: Two papers of 5 pages each are due on Week 7 and Week 11 in class. These papers should be understood as “think papers,” in which students have the opportunity to respond to the readings of a particular week in depth. These “think papers” should demonstrate a good understanding of the ideas and issues in the theoretical and critical texts and show original and careful reflection of these issues. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about their topic in advance. Students must retain a copy of each paper.

3) **Final take-home examination (30%)**: The final examination will consist of short-essay questions.

**Learning Outcome Goals for the Course:**
This course will introduce students to a wide but interrelated range of issues, including East Asian literature and theory, modernism, Marxism, narratology, theory of reception, feminist criticism and gender studies, film theory, psychoanalysis, translation theory, post-structuralism, post-modernism, social theory, post-colonialism, cultural studies, and issues of ethnic identity; it will teach students to develop critical approaches to the major text, and to formulate their own ideas to produce an academic paper about East Asian literature and cultural theory.

**Department Learning Goals Met by this Course:**
- Acquire in-depth knowledge of East Asian literature in translation, theoretical texts, and critical material on those literary and/or theoretical texts.
- Analyze and interpret major texts and issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities following a comparative approach

**Assessment Plan:**
The assessment methods for this course are designed to evaluate student mastery of the course goals. The assignments require students to read, interpret and discuss texts related to topics and issues in East Asian literature, critical scholarship, and literary and cultural theory. Upon completion of the course, students will have learned analytical and rhetoric skills through weekly discussions of the texts and issues, as well as through individual oral presentation to the class. Students will also be able to construct a thesis argument and build support with examples through two analytical and research papers.

**Academic Integrity:**
Under no circumstance will behaviors that violate academic integrity be tolerated. These behaviors include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying fellow students access to information or material, helping others to violate academic integrity, or purchasing essays online or otherwise. All violations will automatically receive no grade and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please note that, in the case of plagiarism, ignorance of conventions of attribution and citation is not considered a mitigating circumstance.

**Students with disabilities:**
It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

**Required Course Materials:**
There are two types of reading material: books to be purchased and individual articles and book chapters available for download at the course website. Students must bring a hard copy of the readings assigned for the particular class.

A) E-files are available at course Sakai “Resources.”

B) Recommended books on literary and cultural theory:

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Week 2: East Asian Theories of Literature**


**Week 3: Traditional Chinese Poetics**


**Week 4: Theories of the Novel and Bakhtin**


**Week 5: Theories of Narrative and Plot**


**Week 6: Reception Theory**

Selections of poems by Tao Yuanming, Li Bo and Du Fu.
Wendy Swartz, Reading Tao Yuanming: Shifting Paradigms of Historical Reception (427 -1900) (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2008), 1-22
Paula Varsano, Tracking the Banished Immortal (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003), 1-29.

**Week 7: Theories of Gender, Performance, and Identity; Paper 1 due in class**


**Week 8: Marxist Approaches**


**Week 9: Structuralism and Post-Structuralism**


**Week 10: Psychoanalytic Criticism**


Week 11: Translation Theory; Paper 2 due in class

Lydia Liu, Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity—China, 1900-1037 (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995), 1-42.

Week 12: Reorientalizing the Oriental(ism)


Week 13: The Problem of Modernity

James Fuji, Complicit Fictions: The Subject in the Modern Japanese Prose Narrative, 126-150.

Week 14: Post-Modernity, Diaspora, Visuality, and Transculturation


