Classical Chinese Popular Fiction & Drama in Translation (01:165: 242)

Spring 2018
Monday/Wednesday 1:10 pm–2:30 pm
HC-S126

Instructor: Peng Liu
Scott Hall 337

Course Description
Late imperial Chinese fiction and drama witnessed the revalorization and re-exploration of individual desire. Never before were Chinese writers so openly fascinated with desire and so eager to represent it in various modes. Human desire was thus tremendously diversified and intensified in their works. Desire became increasingly important to fictional works and served as a powerful force to propel storytelling. This course focuses on two masterpieces of Chinese literature produced in the Ming and Qing dynasties: The Peony Pavilion and The Story of the Stone (also known as Dream of the Red Chamber). Based on close readings of these two works in English translations, we contemplate the following issues: What does desire mean in these stories? How do these works utilize human desire to generate narratives? More broadly, how is desire related to larger topics, such as gender, sex, objects, and religion? In each section, we focus on a specific topic and discuss the subject matter both within and beyond the texts. All readings are in English. No knowledge of Chinese language or literature is required. Students with the ability to read Chinese texts are encouraged to read the original.

Requirements and Grades:
1. Class Participation – 20%
2. Coursework Postings – 20%
3. Midterm Paper (6–8 pages) – 20%
4. Final Research Paper (8–10 pages) – 40%

Class Participation: In every class meeting, we need one student to give a 10–15 minute presentation. The presenter should raise two or three questions/issues based on primary and secondary sources. Please post your questions online before class. All students are expected to read them and participate actively in classroom discussion.

Postings: Each student should write one or two paragraphs that reflect your own understanding of the readings. Please post your postings before 7 PM on Sunday and Tuesday.

Midterm Paper: Each student should write a well-crafted and clearly argued midterm essay based on the text(s) you choose. It should present a clear argument and demonstrate your skill of close reading. You may engage relevant theoretical works if you think they are helpful to your analysis. The essay will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. It should include footnotes and a bibliography according to the MLA Style Manual or Chicago Manual of Style.
Final Research Paper: For the final paper, students should focus on *The Story of the Stone*. You are required to dissect the text thoroughly in order to present an original textual analysis with a clear argument and sufficient evidence to support your argument. The paper should contain footnotes and a bibliography according to the *MLA Style Manual* or *Chicago Manual of Style*.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
As a member of Rutgers community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. Your paper should be your own original work. If you want to use words or ideas from other sources, make sure you identified the original sources and provide footnotes or parentheses. If you cite from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short, please place it in quotation marks; if you quote a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. Any work that has been submitted for credit in another course is generally not allowed to be submitted in this course unless you have the permission from your instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to talk to your instructor after class or during office hours.

**Required Texts:**


**Relevant Secondary Materials:**


**Schedule**

**Week 1**
1/17 Introduction to the course

**Week 2**
1/24 *The Peony Pavilion*, Scenes 6–12.

**Week 3**
1/29 *The Peony Pavilion*, Scenes 13–19
1/31 *The Peony Pavilion*, Scenes 20–25

**Week 4**
2/5 *The Peony Pavilion*, Scenes 26–32
2/7 *The Peony Pavilion*, Scenes 33–39
Week 5
2/12 The Peony Pavilion, Scenes 40–46
2/14 The Peony Pavilion, Scenes 47–55

Week 6
2/19 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 1–5

2/21 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 6–10

Week 7
2/26 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 11–17

2/28 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 18–25

Week 8
3/5 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 26–32
   Wu, I-Hsien. Eroticism and Other Literary Conventions in Chinese Literature, 85–120.

3/7 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 33–40

Midterm paper due March 7

Week 9 Spring Recess No class

Week 10
3/19 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 41–49

3/21 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 50–54

Week 11
3/26 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 55–60
   Wai-yee Li, Enchantment and Disenchantment, Chapter 4, 152–201.

3/28 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 61–66

Week 12
4/2 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 67–73
   Wai-yee Li, Enchantment and Disenchantment, Chapter 5, 202–230.
4/4 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 74–79

**Week 13**
4/9 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 80–86
   Wai-yee Li, Enchantment and Disenchantment, Chapter 6, 231–256.

4/11 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 87–93

**Week 14**
4/16 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 94–99

4/18 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 100–105

**Week 15**
4/23 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 106–113

4/25 The Story of the Stone, Chapters 114–120

**Week 16**
4/30 Students present final projects

Final paper due May 10.