English 3325: Advanced Reading in World Literature—Modern Chinese and Japanese Fiction (Fall, 2009)
MWF 11:00 AM, Irby 303
Instructor: Dr. Biling Chen
Office & Office Hours: Irby 314, MW 9:00-11:00 AM; 4:15-5:45 PM; F 9:00-11:00 AM;
2:00-3:00 PM
E-mail: blchen@uca.edu

Required Texts:
Red Poppies. Alai
Love in a Fallen City. Chang
Soul Mountain. Gao
The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories. Ed. Goosen (buy this book at Amazon .com)
The Harp of Burma. Takeyama
The Waiting Years. Enchi
Norwegian Wood. Murakami

Grade:
1. class attendance, active participation, and courtesy: 10%
2. quizzes, including in-class group discussions: 10%
3. two 5-7 minute individual oral presentations about any stories on our reading list
   (topics will be provided): 20%
4. two papers based on your oral presentations (5-7 pages, type-written, double-spaced)
5. mid-term exam: 20%
6. final exam: 20%

Course Objectives:
1. Students will gain a basic sense of modern Chinese and Japanese literary movements,
cultural, and political history.
2. Students will learn how modern Chinese and Japanese writers address such issues as
nationalism, national literature, ethnic identities, gender conflicts, cultural hybridity and
authenticity.
3. Students will learn to distinguish the universal from the particular, East and West, and
their various intersections.

Class Policies:
1. I take attendance every class period. I will drop you from the class without
   notifying you once you miss 6 classes. You, therefore, should also keep track
   of your own absences. You are allowed to miss 3 classes without penalty—there
   is no need to inform me of your absences within this limit, no matter whether you
   have any valid excuses or not. Missing 4-5 classes will lead to your final grade
   one letter lower. (In other words, if the average grade of your written, verbal, and
   other performances is B, you will receive C instead.)
2. Before class begins, please turn off your cell-phone or any other electronic
devices, or use the restroom. Disruptive behavior, including tardiness, chatting,
leaving the class in the mid of my lecture or your classmates’ presentations,
surfing the web or checking email, will not be tolerated. Each of the violations will cost you 1% of your attendance and participation grade.

3. Any missed in-class activities, for example, quizzes, group discussions, as a result of disruptive conduct or absence cannot be made up. I will not extend the time or repeat the questions if you cannot finish the quiz because of your own tardiness.

4. Missed oral presentations and exams can be made up within a week only if you present proofs, such as a program of the funeral you attended, a doctor’s note on the hospital’s letterhead (school nurse’s note will not be accepted), a receipt from the garage to which you sent your car to be repaired, etc.

5. You are expected to buy, borrow, or co-own the textbooks, because reading the assignments is essential. I sympathize but do not accept such excuses as your parents’ inability or unwillingness to help you financially; the Financial Aid Office’s failure to give you a loan on time, etc.

6. Quizzes will be given before, during, or after my lecture.

7. Plagiarism is a crime. Use MLA documentation format if you consult secondary sources for your papers. A plagiarized paper will receive an F, so will cheating during a quiz or exam.

8. I do not accept late papers or email versions of them. If you get sick, make sure that you find someone to bring your paper to me on the due day before 4:00 P.M.

9. If you have learning disability and need extra time writing your exams, please bring proper documentation to demonstrate your special need, and let me know no later than 8/28.


Syllabus

A. Chinese literature

8/21 Introduction: Late Nineteenth-Century and Early Twentieth-Century China
8/24 “A Madman’s Diary;” “Kong Yi ji” (handout)
8/26 “When I Was in Xia Village” (handout)

Eileen Chang’s Hong Kong and Shanghai during the 1940s
8/28 “Seal-Off”
8/31 “Love in a Fallen City” (first half)
9/2 ________________ (second half)

Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) and Its Ripples
9/4 “Tales of New Cathay;” “Escape” (handout)
9/7 Labor Day
9/9 Soul Mountain, chapters 1-5
9/11 chapters 6, 8, 19, 12
9/14 chapters 20, 22, 39
9/16 chapters 26, 36, 47, 48
9/18 chapters 75, 76, 80, 81
Chinese Heritage in Taiwan After 1949
9/21 “Winter Nights” (handout)
9/23 “Tales of Taipei” (handout)

Tibet: China’s Western Treasure
9/25 Red Poppies, I-II
9/28 III-VII
9/30 VII-X
10/2 XI-XII

Oral Presentations, Papers Due, Take-Home Mid-term Exam
10/5 first half of the class
10/7 second half of the class
10/9 no class

The Meiji Restoration and the Modernization of Japan
10/12 mid-term exam due; “Third Night”
10/14, “In the Forest, Under Cherries in Full Bloom”
10/16 fall break
10/19 “Arugrie” “The Rifle”
10/21 The Harp of Burma (first half)
10/23 __________________ (second half)

Gender Trouble and Sex War
10/26 “The Peony Garden”
10/28 The Waiting Years, pages 7-55
10/30 __________________, pages 56-105
11/2 ___________________, pages 106-154
11/4 ___________________, pages 155-202
11/6 “Portrait of an Old Geisha”
11/9 “Toddler Hunting”

The Brave New World
11/11”The Elephant Vanishes”
11/13 “The Bet”
11/16 Norwegian Wood, pages 3-72
11/18 ______________, pages 72-147
11/20 ______________, pages 147-218
11/23 ______________, pages 219-293
11/25 Thanksgiving
11/27 Thanksgiving

Oral Presentations, Papers Due, and Take-Home Final Exam
11/30 second half of the class; 12/2 first half of the class; 12/11 finals due