Chinese 103: Modern Chinese Drama

Instructor: Emily Wilcox
Email: emily.e.wilcox@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm, Sproul 410

Course times and location: Monday and Wednesday, 2:10-4:00, 163 Olson

Course Description:


Course Objectives:

• Become familiar with major writers, works, and themes in modern Chinese drama
• Understand the historical emergence of modern Chinese drama and its relation to other Chinese performance forms, including Chinese indigenous theater, dance, and film
• Analyze modern Chinese dramatic texts in historical, cultural, and political context
• Think critically about the significance of drama as a form of cultural production in China

Course Readings (Required):

Reader for Chinese 103, at Davis Copy Shop, 231 Third St., phone: 530-758-2311

Recommended Readings (Not Required):

Jonathan D. Spence The Search for Modern China
Colin Mackerras The Chinese Theatre in Modern Times
Xiaomei Chen Acting the Right Part: Political Theater and Popular Drama in Contemporary China; Reading the Right Text: An Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Drama

Course Expectations:

Attendance and in-class participation are mandatory. Students are expected to fully engage in the class discussion, by paying attention, asking questions, and sharing comments. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students arriving after 30 minutes will be marked absent. Attendance and in-class participation (including two in-class group presentations) will count for 25% of the final grade.
Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before class. Please bring the assigned readings with you to class. Quizzes on the assigned readings will occasionally be given in class, without warning, and will count toward 25% of the final grade.

Office hours will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm, in Sproul 410. Students are strongly recommended to attend office hours, as this is an opportunity to talk one-on-one with the instructor, regarding the course, future plans, or other topics related to college life and academics.

Assignments:

- Reading assignments are to be completed before class on the assigned day.
- Quizzes on reading assignments will be given in class occasionally without warning (five to ten quizzes total). Questions will be simple short-answer only, on basic content from the readings.
- Each student will participate in two group presentations during the quarter. Group presentations will count toward your attendance and participation grade for the course.

Exams:

There will be two exams for this course, a midterm and a final, each worth 25% of the final grade. The midterm exam will take place in class on Wednesday, Feb 2nd. It will be composed of short answer and essay questions and will last two hours in length. The midterm will cover all readings and lectures from the first five weeks of class.

The final exam will be a take-home exam due by email at 12:00 midnight on Wednesday, March 16th. The final exam will be composed of three essay questions, which will ask you to synthesize materials from the entire course. The final exam will be cumulative (including materials from the entire quarter), however the emphasis will be on readings and lectures from after the midterm. No extensions or late exams will be accepted.

Special Accommodations:

If you have any special circumstances, such as university athletic participation, childcare duties, or disability that require special accommodations, please provide written copies of your special accommodations request by Monday, Jan 10th. If you have a health-related or other emergency during the semester that requires you to miss class, please email me an explanation and provide written proof within one week of your absence so that your absence can be excused. Excused absences or absences due to special accommodations will not count against your grade.

Grade Breakdown:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Group presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Attendance and discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take-home)</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Readings should be completed before class on that day they are listed.

WEEK 1 - Chinese Indigenous Theater

Monday, Jan 3
Introduction to the course. No assigned readings.

Wednesday, Jan 5

WEEK 2 - Creating “Modern” Chinese Drama

Monday, Jan 10
Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House (1879), in Reader
*Hu Shi, The Greatest Event in Life (1919), in Reader

Wednesday, Jan 12
*Ouyang Yuqian, After Returning Home (1922), in Reader

WEEK 3 - Revolution and the May Fourth Generation

Monday, Jan 17
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday **NO CLASS**
No assigned readings.

Wednesday, Jan 19
*Bai Wei, Breaking out of the Pagoda, in Reader (1928), in Reader

WEEK 4 - The Canon and its Alternatives

Monday, Jan 24
*Ts’ao Yu (Cao Yu), Thunderstorm (1934), in Reader

Wednesday, Jan 26
*Li Jianwu, It’s Only a Spring (1934), not in Reader, will be distributed in class

WEEK 5 - Drama in War
Monday, Jan 31
*Hsia Yen, Under Shanghai Eaves (1937), in Reader

Wednesday, Feb 2 MIDTERM EXAM in class. No make-up exams.
No assigned readings.

WEEK 6 - Taiwanese Modern and Avant-garde Theatre of the 1980s and 90s
Visiting Lecturer: Professor Dominique Liao, Institute of Taiwan and Cross-Cultural Studies in Taichung, Taiwan

Monday, Feb 7

Wednesday, Feb 9

WEEK 7 - Drama in New China

Monday, Feb 14
*Lao She, Tea House (1958), in Reader

Wednesday, Feb 16
* Chen Yun, The Young Generation (1965), in Reader

WEEK 8 - Dance as Drama in Revolutionary China

Monday, Feb 21 Presidents’ Day Holiday **NO CLASS**
No assigned readings.

Wednesday, Feb 23

WEEK 9 - ‘Model Dramas’ of the Cultural Revolution

Monday, Feb 28
*Red Detachment of Women (1970[1964]), in Reader

Wednesday, March 2
*The Red Lantern (1969), in Reader

**WEEK 10 - Post-Cultural Revolution Chinese Theatre**

**Monday, March 7**  
* Xing Yixun, Power Versus Law (1979), in Reader

**Wednesday, March 9**  
* Bai Fengxi, First Bathed in Moonlight (1982), in Reader

**WEEK 11 - From Ibsen’s Nora to Madame Mao and Beyond**

**Monday, March 14**  
* Sha Yexin, Jiang Qing and Her Husbands (1990), in Reader.  
  Last day of class.

**Final Exam due by email at 12:00 midnight on Wednesday, March 16th**