

# CAH5737: NARRATIVE FICTION AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LITERATURE

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## Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Narrative Fiction and Contemporary Chinese Literature

### Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

### Course Number

5737

### Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

Chinese

### Medium of Assessment

Chinese

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course offers a critical study of contemporary narrative fiction from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other Sinophone regions, including Malaysia, Singapore, the United States, and Europe. Key writers to be discussed include Lu Xun (魯迅), Shen Congwen (沈從文), Yu Dafu (郁達夫), Shi Zhecun (施蛰存), Zhang Henshui (張恨水), Can Xue (殘雪), Chang Kuei Hsing (張貴興), Zhu Xining (朱西甯), Xi Xi (西西), Liu Cixin (劉慈欣), among others. Drawing on Hannah Arendt's insight that the human condition is defined by the symbiosis of action and narrativity – what she calls the incipient sign of “natality” – this course explores how fiction creates an open space where the public and personal, as well as the past and future of a community, intersect. Through storytelling, the passions and shared historical visions of a community are contested, negotiated, and reimagined, reflecting the power of narrative to inspire new beginnings. A vibrant society depends on this narrative energy, as storytelling becomes an act of renewal for the human condition. Accordingly, this course examines not only the literary aesthetics of fiction but also the “dialogues” between storytelling and key historical moments.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe core ideas and knowledge of contemporary Chinese fiction in the context of Sinophone.		x	x	
2 Apply the ideas and knowledge to examination of topics related to Sinophone and story-telling, so as to discover new key issues of the subject.		x	x	x
3 Apply the concept of Sinophone in relation to contemporary Chinese fiction.			x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lecture	Students will engage with lectures which are theme-based with emphasis on transferring course knowledge.	1, 2, 3	

2	Tutorial	Students will engage with tutorials. In various sessions, students are divided into small groups that take turns to act as presenters and discussants. The presenters are required to give an oral presentation on an assigned topic. They will submit in written form a revision of the presentation after receiving comments from discussants and the lecturer. In both reports, they are expected to demonstrate full understanding of the assigned readings, give in-depth arguments, and discover new points for discussion.	1, 2, 3	
3	Peer review	Students will engage with discussions in classes. The discussants will take part in active discussion of the presentation. They will submit to the lecturer their comments of the presentation and discovery of new issues in written form. Both oral and written discussions will be assessed.	1, 2, 3	
4	Guest lecture	Students will engage with talks given by guest speakers who are well-known fiction writers.	1, 2, 3	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Oral and written presentations of assigned topics. Emphasis will be placed on the depth of knowledge and discovery of new issues.	1, 2, 3	30	Formulation, organization and presentation of arguments and findings of assigned topics.

2	Participation and in-class discussion. Motivate students' spirit in learning and enhance their awareness in discovering new points of discussion.	1, 2, 3	20	Reflection on presentation, posing critical questions.
3	The final test for this course will be held during the last week. Students will be required to answer two out of four essay questions. The test will be open-book, allowing students to bring books and notes for reference; however, the use of electronic devices, including mobile phones and computers, is strictly prohibited during the test.	1, 2, 3	50	Demonstration of knowledge learned and discovery of new arguments.

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Oral and written presentations of assigned topics (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Show command of the knowledge provided in the assigned readings, as well as ability to discover new issues pertaining to the topics of discussion.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Fair linguistic competence to describe the arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Fair reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Marginal**

(D)

1. Familiarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Failure**

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the assigned topics and readings.
  2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
  3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
  4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.
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### **Assessment Task**

2. Participation and In-class discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

### **Criterion**

Active involvement in discussing the related topics.

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Very active participation in discussion.

### **Good**

(B+, B, B-) Active participation in discussion.

### **Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Passive participation in discussion.

### **Marginal**

(D) Very passive participation in discussion.

### **Failure**

(F) No participation in discussion.

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### **Assessment Task**

3. Final test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

### **Criterion**

The final test for this course will be held during the last week. Students will be required to answer two out of four essay questions. The test will be open-book, allowing students to bring books and notes for reference; however, the use of electronic devices, including mobile phones and computers, is strictly prohibited during the test.

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Good**

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Fair**

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of the course content.
2. Fair linguistic competence to describe the arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Fair reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Marginal**

(D)

1. Familiarity with the subject matter.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Failure**

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the subject matter.
2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

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### **Assessment Task**

1. Oral and written presentations of assigned topics (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

### **Criterion**

Show command of the knowledge provided in the assigned readings, as well as ability to discover new issues pertaining to the topics of discussion.

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Good**

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C)

1. Familiarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.

4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

**Failure**

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the assigned topics and readings.
  2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
  3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
  4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.
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**Assessment Task**

2. Participation and In-class discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Active involvement in discussing the related topics.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Very active participation in discussion.

**Good**

(B+, B) Active participation in discussion.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Very passive participation in discussion.

**Failure**

(F) No participation in discussion.

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**Assessment Task**

3. Final test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

The final test for this course will be held during the last week. Students will be required to answer two out of four essay questions. The test will be open-book, allowing students to bring books and notes for reference; however, the use of electronic devices, including mobile phones and computers, is strictly prohibited during the test.

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

**Good**

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the course content.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C)

1. Familiarity with the subject matter.

2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

### Failure

(F)

1. Unfamiliarity with the subject matter.
2. Unable to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Unsatisfactory ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Unsatisfactory reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

Sinophone. Literature. Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, Malaysia. Modern and contemporary Chinese literature, studies of representative writers, sociology of literature, modern and contemporary Chinese fiction. Feminism, gender politics, identity, domestic and national, genres and subgenres, individual and collective memory.

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lee, Leo Ou-fan, "Literary trends I: the quest for modernity, 1895–1927," "Literary trends: the road to revolution 1927–1949," in <i>The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 13: Republican China 1912-1949</i> .
2	夏志清：《中國現代小說史》（新版），劉紹銘等譯，香港：香港中文大學出版社，2015。
3	王德威主編：《哈佛新編中國現代文學史（上下）》，臺北：麥田，2021。
4	王德威：《小說中國：晚清到當代的中國小說》，臺北：麥田，2012。
5	黃錦樹：《馬華文學與中國性》，臺北：麥田，2012。

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	《跨世紀風華：當代小說20家》王德威 著：2002臺北：麥田
2	《反離散：華語語系研究論》史書美 著：2017臺北：聯經
3	《台灣新文學史》陳芳明 著：2011臺北：聯經
4	《根著我城：戰後至2000年代的香港文學》陳智德 著：2019臺北：聯經
5	《解體我城》陳智德 著：2009香港：花千樹
6	《後遺民寫作》王德威 著：2007臺北：麥田
7	《同志文學史》紀大偉 著：2017臺北：聯經