

San José State University
Department of World Languages and Literatures
CHIN 140 Chinese Culture and Politics through Literature and Films
Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Chunhui Peng
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Office Hours:	MW 15:15-16:15 pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 10:30-11:45 am
Classroom:	CL 206
Prerequisite:	Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area V

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

In this course we will explore the interaction between culture, politics, and literature by studying contemporary literature and films from Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and overseas Chinese communities.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO1: compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.

This course embraces a comparative framework to introduce students to contemporary culture and politics in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China. GELO 1 will be assessed through midterm, final exam and writings. In these activities, students explore and compare the transformation of gender roles, family relationships, economic development and national identities in three regions.

GELO2: identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. This course will introduce a number of historical events and cultural movements, which shaped the assigned readings and films. GELO 2 will be assessed through quizzes, writings and exams. GELO 3: explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. This course will explore the transformations of Chinese culture and politics since 1949. Students will trace the evolution of gender roles, social norms, family structures, ideologies, cultural practices, etc. GELO 3 will be assessed through writings and exams.

A significant part of what you learn in this course comes from interaction with other students as we discuss the readings and films. This course accommodates the GE learning objectives for Area V.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

CLO 1: compare ideas, literary traditions, and cultural practices in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong since 1949;

CLO 2: Identify the historical events discussed in the selected writings and films and analyze how literature and films enrich our understanding of history, culture and politics;

CLO 3: analyze literary works and films effectively and write clearly;

CLO 4: identify and explain tensions between gender, class, politics and tradition in today's Chinese societies;

CLO 5: critique specimens of the literature under review, using several perspectives (aesthetic, cultural, political) and relate them to their historical contexts.

“Courses to meet Area R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units.

Required Texts/Readings

Course readings will be available on our course website accessible through <https://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Supplementary Readings (Not Required)

Chow, Rey. *Woman and Chinese Modernity: The Politics of Reading between West and East*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1991.

Denton, Kirk A. *The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia UP, 2016.

Hsia, C.T. *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction*. 3rd ed. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1999.

Wang, Ban. *Illuminations from the Past: Trauma, Memory, and History in Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2004.

Wang, David Der-wei. *The Monster that Is History: History, Violence, and Fictional Writing in Twentieth Century China*. Berkeley: U of California P, 2004.

Zhang, Yingjin. *Chinese National Cinema*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

---. *A Companion to Modern Chinese Literature*. Malden: John Wiley & Sons, 2016.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

The Department of World Languages computer lab is located in Clark Hall 208. Additional computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in

IRC 112. These items include digital, such as DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Library Liaison

The **library liaison** for World Languages and Literatures is Toby Matoush. Tel. (408) 808-2096 Email: toby.matoush@sjsu.edu. Your computer library search should begin with **Academic Gateway** and proceed to the Foreign Languages (World Languages) section.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 3 hours per unit per week, with one of the hours used for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. (See SJSU Academic Senate Policy S12-3.)

In 3-unit courses, students are therefore expected to devote a minimum of nine hours per week preparing for and attending classes or completing equivalent out-of-class course assignments or projects. Careful time management is needed to keep up with readings and assignments in these courses. Certain assignments may require meetings outside of class with other students and the instructor (see course calendar for further details). More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

Quizzes: To ensure that students keep up on the assigned readings and films, occasional in-class quizzes will be given. Quizzes will take place during the first 5 minutes of class. During the quizzes, students are expected to provide answers to two or three questions about characters and/or plots on assigned readings and films. Note: Quizzes will deal only with the readings/films assigned for that particular day. There are no makeups for quizzes. A missed quiz will result in a grade of "0" unless adequately justified (i.e. doctor's statement).

Participation: PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS. Students are expected to contribute thoughtful comments, raise critical questions, actively listen, and engage their classmates. In the case of an unavoidable absence, students are responsible for obtaining the class notes and homework assignments of previous meetings from a classmate.

Two Essays: Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas. Essays should be turned in on the due day as late homework will **NOT** be graded.

Presentation: Students are expected to give **two** presentations in class. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas course website.

Midterm: The midterm focuses on the readings, films, lectures, and discussions covered by September 26. During the midterm, no notes, readings or computers will be allowed. The exam will consist of identifications, short response and essay questions. Midterm must be taken on the scheduled date.

Final Examination

The final exam will be held on Dec 18 from 9:45 am-12:00 pm. The format is the same as that of the midterm. The final exam will deal with the readings, films, lectures and discussions we cover between Oct 3 and Nov 28.

Grading Information

Categories	Percentage	GELOs and CLOs
Quizzes, Discussions	15%	GELO 1, 2 CLOs 1, 2, 3
Two Essays	5%+10%=15%	GELO 1, 2, 3; CLOs 1,2, 3, 4, 5
Peer Review	2%	GELO 2; CLOs 3, 5
Midterm	28%	GELO 1, 2, 3; CLOs, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Final Exam	30%	GELO 1, 2, 3; CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Presentation	5%x 2=10%	GELO 1, 3; CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

100 - 97 = A+	96.9 - 93 = A	92.9 - 90 = A-
89.9 - 87 = B+	86.9 - 83 = B	82.9 - 80 = B-
79.9 - 77 = C+	76.9- 73 = C	72 .9- 70 = C-
69.9 - 67 = D+	66 .9- 63 = D	62 .9- 60 = D-
59.9 - 0 = F		

Grading Information for GE/100W (if applicable)

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR



Reader to scan this code.)

CHIN 140 Chinese Culture and Politics through Literature

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice in class and on the Canvas course website.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	Introduction
1	Aug 24	Topic One: PRC 1950s-1970s Screening: <i>Morning Sun</i> Homework: Watch the the film <i>To Live</i> online
2	Aug 27	Discussion: <i>To Live</i> Homework: Go to Canvas_Module_Writing and read the webpages/videos about writing literary essays
2	Aug 29	Discussion: The 1950s; mini-lecture on writing
3	Sept 3	Labor Day, no class.
3	Sept 5	Screening: <i>The Road Home</i> Homework: Watch the rest of the film
4	Sept 10	Discussion: <i>The Road Home</i> Homework: Reading “Living Hell,” selected poems
4	Sept 12	First essay due (GELO 1, 2, 3)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Discussion: Reading "Living Hell," selected poems The Cultural Revolution and its aftermath Homework: Reading "Mountain Road," "The Ivory Balls," "Mr. Candlestick"
5	Sept 17	Topic Two: Taiwan 1950s-1970s Discussion: "Mountain Road," "The Ivory Balls," "Mr. Candlestick" Homework: Reading "An Oxcart for a Dowry" "His Son's Big Doll"
5	Sept 19	Discussion: "An Oxcart for a Dowry" "His Son's Big Doll" Homework: Reading "My Kid Brother Kangxiong," "Lucky Worries about His Country"
6	Sept 24	Discussion: "My Kid Brother Kangxiong," "Lucky Worries about His Country" Homework: Reading "Fin-de-siècle Splendor" Peer review
6	Sept 26	Peer review due Discussion: "Fin-de-siècle Splendor" Review
7	Oct 1	Midterm (GELO 1, 2, 3) Homework: Reading "Gold Carp's Pleated Skirt" "Wandering in the Garden, Waking from a Dream"
7	Oct 3	Topic Three: Gender Issues Discussion: "Gold Carp's Pleated Skirt" "Wandering in the Garden, Waking from a Dream" Homework: Reading "Love Must Not Be Forgotten" "A Girl Like Me"
8	Oct 8	Discussion: "Love Must Not Be Forgotten" "A Girl Like Me"
8	Oct 10	Screening: <i>Wedding Banquet</i> Homework: Watch the rest of the film
9	Oct 15	Discussion: <i>Wedding Banquet</i>
9	Oct 17	Topic Four: Hong Kong at the Turn of the Century Screening: <i>Comrades: Almost a Love Story</i> Homework: Watch the rest of the film
10	Oct 22	Discussion: <i>Comrades: Almost a Love Story</i>
10	Oct 24	Discussion: <i>Comrades: Almost a Love Story</i> (continued) Homework: Pick a topic for the research paper
11	Oct 29	Screening: <i>Chungking Express</i> Homework: Watch the rest of the film
11	Oct 31	Discussion: <i>Chungking Express</i> Homework: Write the bibliography of the research paper
12	Nov 5	Discussion: <i>Chungking Express</i> (continued) Homework: Reading "Folding Beijing"

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Nov 7	Topic Five: Consumerism, Nationalism, and Ethnic Minorities Discussion: "Folding Beijing" Homework: Reading "Fish!"
13	Nov 12	Veteran's Day, No Class
13	Nov 14	Second essay due (GELO 1, 2, 3) Discussion: "Fish!" Homework: Watch the film <i>Red Sea Operation</i> at home
14	Nov 19	Discussion: <i>Red Sea Operation</i>
14	Nov 21	Non-instructional day
15	Nov 26	Topic Six: Mediating Multiple Identities in Diaspora Screening: <i>Joy Luck Club</i> Homework: Watch the rest of the film
15	Nov 28	Discussion: <i>Joy Luck Club</i>
16	Dec 3	Presentation: Group 1
16	Dec 5	Presentation: Group 2
17	Dec 10	Presentation: Group 3
Final Exam	Dec 18	9:45-12:00 (GELO 1, 2, 3)