

Chinese Women's Literature: Stories of (Dis)location

WS308U-001 CRN14915

ENG308U-002 CRN 14478*

Office hours: MW 4-5pm and by appt.

Email: s.mcwilliams@pdx.edu

Fall 2010, MW, 2:00-3:50pm

Professor Sally McWilliams

x5-8476; office: Neu 470

Overview: We'll study of how Chinese female subjectivity is constructed from among the overlapping discourses of place, nationalism, transnationalism, family, history, gender, and sexual politics. Our discussion of contemporary narratives by women from mainland China as well as overseas Chinese and Chinese-American communities will examine the effects of political changes, migration, exile, and multiculturalism in concert with gender. These narratives raise questions about Chinese origins, memories, desires, history, and subjectivities in the age of global capitalism and transnational systems of power.

Objectives:

1. To expand our understanding of mainland Chinese, diasporic Chinese, and Chinese-American women's literature through exposure to a variety of narratives;
2. To explore the thematic and stylistic concerns of texts created by various contemporary women writers with linkages to China;
3. To aid students in thinking critically about gender, nationalism, history, culture, and subjectivity through a close analysis of literary texts;
4. To problematize the image and idea of "China" by investigating the political, socio-economic, historical, cultural, and social pressures invoked by the literary representations;
5. To consider the interpretive implications of reading contemporary Chinese and Chinese diasporic women's literature in the U.S. classroom.

Texts:

Chang, Eileen. *The Rouge of the North* (ISBN: 052021-875)

Geling Yan. *The Lost Daughter of Happiness* (ISBN: 0786887575)

Hong Ying. *Daughter of the River* (ISBN: 0802136605)

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior* (ISBN: 0679721886)

Min, Anchee. *Becoming Madame Mao* (ISBN: 0749005025)

Nieh Hualing. *Mulberry and Peach* (ISBN: 1558611827)

See, Lisa. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (ISBN: 0812980352)

Methods of Evaluation:

Each student will be responsible and held accountable for each of the following course requirements:

1. Preparation for class meetings (i.e., reading and viewing of assigned texts);
2. Participation in large and small group discussions;
3. Response papers on topics to be drawn from student-centered discussions (2-3 typed double-spaced pages per paper; total = 4 papers) [see Assignment Guidelines];
4. Participation in one student-led discussion group on an essay related to the course [see Assignment Guidelines];

6. Analytical essay with bibliography based on student's inquiry into a topic stemming from class discussions [see Assignment Guidelines]
7. Participation in one outside activity [see Assignment Guidelines]

Grades

Participation (includes outside activity)	20%	Discussion Group	20%
Response Papers	30%	Final Essay	30%

Late Paper Policy*:

1. For response papers, a late paper is any paper that comes in after the deadline on the erading schedule. The cutoff deadline is also listed on the reading schedule; if you miss this deadline, I won't accept that response paper. All late papers will be dropped one grade point if submitted by the cut off deadline.
2. The final essay is due on the assigned date.

*Please see me in advance of due dates if you have extraordinary complications in meeting the deadlines.

Paper Format: All writing done outside of class must be typed unless I tell you otherwise. You will submit most, if not all, of your assignments through Blackboard. Please use a software program I can open (e.g., Microsoft Word; NOT WordPerfect). Be sure to keep a copy of all your work in the off chance your original submission is lost.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the presentation of other people's work as your own, whether or not the writer has given you permission. It is never acceptable. Always credit your sources: theorists we've read; internet sources you've consulted; your peers if you use one of their ideas in your writing. If you are feeling pressured about getting the assigned work done, come and see me **before** you get overwhelmed.

Academic Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center, <http://www.drc.pdx.edu/>, located in Smith Memorial Union, (503) 725-4150.

The Writing Center: The Center is available to students who would like to improve their writing or need assistance with a class writing assignment. It's located in Cramer 188. You can schedule appointments online or in person; they also take walk-ins.

<http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/index.php>

Women's Resource Center: A great resource space is the WRC, located in the basement of the Montgomery Building. wrc.pdx.edu 503-725-5672.

Queer Resource Center: Located in Smith 401, the QRC provides a gathering space and resources for queer-identified individuals and allies. Phone: 503.725.9742 Email: qrc@pdx.edu

Classroom environment: We're all here to study Chinese women's literature, and we don't have much time in a 10-week term to do so. This means that outside distractions aren't very conducive to serious study so . . . turn off the cell phones, pagers, palm pilots, Ipods, etc. Plus, take care of your personal needs (food, water, etc.) prior to coming to class so you can focus on the work ahead of you. Thanks.