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ENGL 5370: World Literature (Topic: Comparative Women's Literature)

Course Description:

This course introduces you to comparative studies of women's literature with a focus on methodology. Using as a case the literature of post-Mao Chinese women writers, who have gone through historical changes in China--Mao's liberation of women, the Cultural Revolution, economic reforms, and globalization, this course teaches a comparative methodology in literary and rhetorical studies, i.e. how to study literature in parallel across the continents rhetorically. This methodology is called transnational rhetorical studies or perspectives. The comparative approach enables you to see ripple effects of social conditions on women in different cultures and, in turn, to reflect on American women's life and writing.

The course is conducted online. You will use study questions and writing as major approaches for knowledge-making and ownership. You will also post questions and comments on the "Reading Forum" weekly to share your interpretations and ideas.

Course objectives:

By the end of this course, you will be able to

1. Approach women's writing and literature with social and cultural sensitivity
2. Analytically write about women's writing against its cultural backdrop
3. Make rhetorical connections between the writer's rhetoric and her literary work
4. Critically scrutinize secondary sources, e.g. scholarship and research results.
5. Write book reviews professionally

Required Texts:

Supplemental Texts (PDFs on Canvas):

1. Literary works by post-Mao Chinese women
2. Some of Maya Angelou's poems
3. Alice Walker's essays
4. *Contemporary Chinese Women Writers, V* [Volume V]: *Three Novellas by Fang Fang*, Panda Books, 1996 (The required reading is available in PDF on Canvas).
5. Kristeva, Julia. *About Chinese Women*. New York: Marion Boyars, 1986 (required readings are available in PDF on Canvas).
6. *Seven Contemporary Chinese Women Writers*. Beijing: Panda Books, 1990 (required readings are available in PDF on Canvas).
7. Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. Annotated with an introduction by Susan Guber. New York: Harcourt, 2005. Ebook in UT Tyler library (log-in needed):
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uttyler/detail.action?docID=6167478>
8. Wu, Hui. *Once Iron Girls: Essays on Gender by Post-Mao Chinese Literary Women*. Lexington Books, 2010.
9. Toni Morrison's essays
10. Some Western scholars' articles on Chinese women and their literary writing

Explanation of Assignments:

1. Three short critical essays (4-5 double-spaced pages, first one 11%) 21%

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| 2. A critical essay comparing Toni Morrison's or Alice Walker's fiction and writing philosophy with those of a Chinese woman writer
(12-15 pages) | 19% |
| 3. Review of a book on feminist and/or women's studies (5-6 double-spaced pages) | 10% |
| 4. Presentation of Book Review | 5% |
| 5. Participation (worksheets, individual online discussions and responses) | 40% |
| 6. Final exam (a reflective essay) | 5% |

Discussion Board (Reading Forum) Policy:

Questions and responses on the discussion board are to enable students to brainstorm about the reading and writing. The postings on the discussion board must be focused on the assigned topic. All technical problems associated with the Blackboard, Internet, or library database, including passwords, user IDs, should be directed to the respective departments. **The course instructor cannot answer any technical questions.**

All postings on the discussion board must meet academic and professional standards. Abuses in forms of bullying and/or discriminatory comments on gender, sex, race, or ethnicity are not allowed and will be reported if the instructor's intervention does not see immediate changes of the behavior.

Weekly Post on the "Reading Forum"

If not notified otherwise, your posts on weekly readings will be due 8:00 a.m. Thursday, and peer responses will be due 8:00 a.m. Friday. The instructor's response to each student's post will be posted afterwards. **Late postings will not be accepted because they would miss timely interactions.**

Grading: You will receive letter grades for all your papers, class participation, and the course. Please note that graduate students must maintain an average of B to sustain the status of good standing. **An A or B paper must demonstrate clear thinking about the issue/topic, logical development of the theme/subject, precision and conciseness in style, and organized details.**

Late Paper: I will penalize late papers: half of a letter grade (e.g., A to B+) for the first day late; after that, a full letter grade (e.g., A to B).

Rewrite: You may rewrite any paper that has received a grade lower than C. Also, you may rewrite **ONE** of the major papers that received a grade above C. There is no risk of rewriting papers since only a higher grade will be recorded.

Participation: Please note the participation credit for the final grade. You are required to post responses and analytical comments this course requires. All discussion board posts will be evaluated and receive grades.

University Policies:

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness: If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Tyler at Texas offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The **Student Accessibility**

and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with an Accessibility Case Manager. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities: If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement: It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct: Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Campus Carry Clause: We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.