

Sinophone Women Writers

Instructors: Chia-Hsien Yang (yangch@mx.nthu.edu.tw)

Brian Skerratt (brian.skerratt@gmail.com)

Hours: 36 (6hrs/w)

1. Course Overview

In traditional China, it was said, "For a woman to play at literature is truly shameful," and women with literary talent were firmly in the minority. However, with changing times, broadening attitudes, and improved access to education, woman writers have come to occupy considerable territory within the literary world. This course will lead students on a reading of the works of modern and contemporary Chinese-language female authors, with a focus on fiction and poetry. The fiction portion will include Lu Yin, Ling shu-hua, Xiao Hong, and Eileen Chang of the Republican period; contemporary Taiwanese writers Li Ang and Ping Lu; Hong Kong popular fiction writer Lillian Lee; contemporary China writers Yan Geling and Wen Zhen. The poetry portion will include Republican-era pioneers Bing Xin and Zheng Min; contemporary mainland poets Shu Ting and Zhai Yongming; contemporary Taiwanese poets Xi Murong, Xia Yu, and Ling Yu; and renowned Hong Kong author Xi Xi. Our discussion of their works will touch on romance, family, class, nation, time travel, homosexuality, and female self-determination, and other significant issues.

2. Weekly Syllabus

Week	Topic
1	A Modern Woman's Voice 1: Lu Yin
	A Modern Woman's Voice 2: Ling Shuhua
2	Gazing upon Desolation: Xiao Hong
	Against Sentimentality: Eileen Chang
3	Feminist Politics: Li Ang
	The Woman in Politics and History: Ping Lu
4	Time Traveling in Hong Kong: Lillian Lee
	Yan Geling's Cultural Revolution Memories, Wen Zhen's Beijing Love Story

5	Pioneers of Modern Poetry: Bing Xin and Zheng Min
	Chinese Avant Garde: Shu Ting and Zhai Yongming
6	Taiwan (Post-)Modern: Xi Murong, Xia Yu, Ling Yu
	Scenes from a Floating City: Xi Xi's Hong Kong

3. Grading Breakdown

Oral presentations 30%

In-class discussion 30%

Textual analysis papers 40%

4. Course Readings and Bibliography

Lu Yin, *Haibin guren* (Tianjin: Baihua wenyi, 2005)

Ling Shuhua, *Fiction* vols. 1 and 2 (Taipei: Hongfan, 1984)

Xiao Hong, *Tales of Hulan River* (Taipei: Lianhe wenxue, 1991)

Eileen Chang, *Love in a Fallen City: Short Fiction volume 1* (Taipei: Huangguan, 2010)

Eileen Chang, *Red Rose and White Rose: Short Fiction volume 2* (Taipei: Huangguan, 2010)

Eileen Chang, *Little Reunions* (Taipei: Huangguan, 2009)

Li Ang, *The Butcher's Wife* (Taipei: Lianjing, 1983)

Li Ang, *Beigang Incense* (Taipei: Maitian, 1997)

Ping Lu, *Bailing qian* (Taipei: Liange webxue, 1998)

Ping Lu, *Love and Revolution* (Taipei: Lianhe wenxue, 2010)

Lillian Lee, *Rouge* (Hong Kong: Tiandi tushu, 2005)

Lillian Lee, *Farewell My Concubine* (Hong Kong: Tiandi tushu, 2008)

Yan Geling, *White Snake* (Xi'an: Shaanxi shifan daxue, 2012)

Wen Zhen, *City of Scents* (Taipei: Renjian, 2016)

Bing Xin, *Stars and Spring Water* (Hong Kong, Sanlian: 2001)

Zheng Min, *Collected Poems, 1942-1947* (Beijing: Zhongguo wenlian, 1993)

Shu Ting, *The Poetry of Shu Ting* (Beijing: Renmin wenxue, 1994)

Zhai Yongming, *Climbing High: Selected Poems* (Taipei: Xiuwei zixun, 2013)

Xi Murong, *Seven-Mile Fragrance* (Taipei: Dadi, 1984)

Xia Yu, *Ventriloquy* (4th ed., Taipei: Xia Yu, 2010)

Ling Yu, *Countryside/5:49pm* (Taipei: Xiaoxie, 2016)

Xi Xi, *Collected Poems* (Taipei: Hongfan, 2000)