

10920CL 372000

Modern and Contemporary Chinese Theatre

Time: M3M4Mn

Room: HSS C405

Instructor: Lo Shih-Lung losl@mx.nthu.edu.tw

I. Course Description

This course suggests 5-6 reading materials selected from modern and contemporary Chinese theatre. We will read translated passages of the original texts, and appreciate their adaptations or rewritings presented in different genres. The works attest to their authors' observation of modern Chinese society and provide an unique perspective into its recent transformations. Through the reading of plays – not only the words assigned to characters but also a reading between the lines – students are encouraged to think critically about human nature and the interactions among various social roles as elaborated by the language of theatre and other relevant forms. Students will be able to envision and realize the social, historical and political contexts underlying these literary works.

II. Reading Materials

1. Ding Xilin 丁西林, *A Wasp* (*Yizhi mafeng* 一隻馬蜂)
2. Ding Xilin 丁西林, *Oppression* (*Yapo* 壓迫) (selected passages)
3. Cao Yu 曹禺, *Thunderstorm* (*Leiyu* 雷雨)
4. Xia Yan 夏衍, *Under Shanghai Eaves* (*Shanghai wuyan xia* 上海屋簷下)
5. Tian Han 田漢, *Guan Hanqing* (*Guan Hanqing* 關漢卿)
6. Gao Xingjian 高行健, *The Bus Stop* (*Chezhan* 車站)

III. References

1. Chen, Xiaomei. Ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Drama*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.
2. Gunn, Edward. *Twentieth-century Chinese Drama: An Anthology*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.

IV. Teaching Method

We will read together the plays and exchange our ideas about their writing skills, narrative strategies, character interpretation, etc. Other activities will be announced in class.

V. Syllabus (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Week	Date	Topic & Reading
W1	Feb. 22	Introduction
W2	Mar. 1	Public holiday
W3	Mar. 8	Ding Xilin, <i>A Wasp</i>
W4	Mar. 15	【 Workshop 】 English as a Lingua Franca in Theatre (by Chongtham Jayanta Meetei, Artistic Director of EX-Theatre Asia) Venue: HSS D202
W5	Mar. 22	Ding Xilin, <i>A Wasp</i> Ding Xilin, <i>Oppression</i> (selected passages)
W6	Mar. 29	【 Workshop 】 Energy on Stage and Sensory Experiences (by Jo Hsiao, professional actress) Venue: Plan B Theatre, Hsinchu
W7	Apr. 5	Public holiday
W8	Apr. 12	Quiz (1) Cao Yu, <i>Thunderstorm</i>
W9	Apr. 19	Cao Yu, <i>Thunderstorm</i>
W10	Apr. 26	Quiz (2) Xia Yan, <i>Under Shanghai Eaves</i>
W11	May 3	Xia Yan, <i>Under Shanghai Eaves</i>
	May 7 (Fri.)	Students of “Western Drama” will visit the theatre at TNUA. You are welcomed to join us.
W12	May 10	Quiz (3) Tian Han, <i>Guan Hanqing</i>
W13	May 17	Tian Han, <i>Guan Hanqing</i>
W14	May 24	Quiz (4) Gao Xingjian, <i>The Bus Stop</i>
W15	May 31	Gao Xingjian, <i>The Bus Stop</i>
W16	Jun. 7	Quiz (5) Rehearsal
W17	Jun. 14	Public holiday
W18	Jun. 21	Final presentation

VI. Evaluation

1. Quizzes (50%): 5 quizzes will be given during the semester.
2. Assignment (10%): You are expected to see a performance during the semester, and write a review of 1-2 pages.
3. Participation (10%): In-class discussions and activities
4. Final presentation - Readers Theatre (30%): You are required to divide yourself into groups, and to select a passage from the texts that we read during the semester for your group dramatic reading. You don't need stage set, costumes nor props, and you are not asked to memorize the scripts. But you are expected to make use of your voice and blockings to inspire your audience's imagination. Discussion and rehearsals will be necessary when you prepare for your presentation. Please make sure that you can devote your time to teamwork.