

11020CL 372500 Selected Readings in Chinese Drama

Time: M3M4Mn Room: HSS C405

Teacher: Shih-Lung Lo 羅仕龍 losl@mx.nthu.edu.tw

I. Course Description

This course suggests 6 reading materials selected from classical and modern 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. Hu Shi 胡適, *The Main Event in Life* (*Zhongshen dashi* 終身大事)
2. Ding Xilin 丁西林, *Oppression* (*Yapo* 壓迫)
3. Ji Junxiang 紀君祥, *The Orphan of Zhao* (*Zhao shi gu'er* 趙氏孤兒)
4. Stan Lai (Lai Shengchuan), *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* (*Anlian Taohuayuan* 暗戀桃花源)
5. Gao Xingjian 高行健, *The Other Side* (*Bi An* 彼岸)
6. Lao She 老舍, *Teahouse* (*Chaguan* 茶館)

III. References

1. Chen, Xiaomei. Ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Drama*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.
2. Cheung, Martha P. Y. and Jane C.C. Lai. Eds. *An Oxford Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Drama*. Hong Kong and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
3. Gunn, Edward. *Twentieth-century Chinese Drama: An Anthology*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.
4. West, Stephen and Wilt Idema. Eds. *The Orphan of Zhao and Other Yuan Plays*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

IV. Teaching Method

We will read together the plays and exchange our ideas about the playwrights' 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	Notes
1	Feb. 14	· Introduction · Hu Shih, <i>The Main Event in Life</i>	
2	Feb. 21	· Hu Shih, <i>The Main Event in Life</i> · Ding Xilin, <i>Oppression</i>	
3	Feb. 28	Public Holiday	
4	Mar. 7	· Ding Xilin, <i>Oppression</i>	
5	Mar. 14	· Ji Junxiang, <i>The Orphan of Zhao</i>	Quiz 1: <i>The Main Event in Life</i> , <i>Oppression</i>
6	Mar. 21	· Ji Junxiang, <i>The Orphan of Zhao</i>	
7	Mar. 28	Guest Lecture by Dr. Fukai Yu 游富凱 (Peking University) Topic: <i>Xiqu</i> on Contemporary Stage Language: Chinese	
8	Apr. 4	Spring Vacation	
9	Apr. 11	· Stan Lai, <i>Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land</i>	Quiz 2: <i>The Orphan of Zhao</i>
10	Apr. 18	Guest Lecture by Prof. Joscha Chung 鍾欣志 (National Chung Cheng University) () Topic: Stan Lai and His Art Language: Chinese + English	
11	Apr. 25	· Gao Xingjian, <i>The Other Side</i>	
12	May 2	· Gao Xingjian, <i>The Other Side</i>	
13	May 9	Guest Lecture by Prof. Han-chen Shiau 蕭涵珍 (National Chung Hsing University) Topic: The Chinese Playwright Li Yu and the Reception of His Works in Edo Period of Japan Language: Chinese	
14	May 16	· Lao She, <i>Teahouse</i>	Quiz 3: <i>Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land</i> , <i>The Other Side</i>
15	May 23	Theatre Workshop Topic: Vocal Expression and Physical Training Language: Chinese + English	Venue: Plan B Theatre, Hsinchu

16	May 30	· Final Presentation	Quiz 4: <i>Teahouse</i>
----	--------	----------------------	----------------------------

VI. Evaluation

1. Quizzes (40%): 4 quizzes will be given during the semester.
2. Assignments (30%):
 - (1) You are expected to see a live performance during the semester and write a review (in Chinese or in English) of 1-2 pages. (Due date: May 30, 2022)
 - (2) Choose one of the four activities (guest lectures or workshops) and write a critical review (in Chinese or in English) of 1-2 pages. (Due date: May 30, 2022)
3. Participation (10%): In-class discussions and activities
4. Final presentation - Readers Theatre (20%) (preferably in English): You are required to divide yourself into groups, and to select a passage from the texts that we study 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.