

**CHIN 355.03-01**  
**Chinese Literature in Translation—**  
**Translational Poetics**

**SYLLABUS**

**FALL 2012**

<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Claire Huot</b>
<b>SS 109</b>	<b>TU, TR: 15:30-16:45</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>Craigie Hall C104</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>TU, TR: 12:30-13:45 or chuot@ucalgary.ca</b>

The course will focus on classical Chinese poetry in the first part; and on modern fiction in the second part. We will pay particular attention to the translation itself. For that purpose, we will also study texts on translation issues, such as theory of translation, ethics of translation and translational poetics, from Chinese to English and from novel to film.

<b>Assignments (4) 70%</b>	<b>1. Oct. 4 (TR) 10%</b> <b>2. Oct. 23 (TU) 20%</b> <b>3. Nov. 20 (TU) 20%</b> <b>4. Dec. 6 (TR) 20%</b>	One question is assigned for each section of the course. Min. of <u>500</u> words; max of <u>1500</u> words per assignment.
<b>Individual/Group Presentation 15%</b>		Oral presentations on a literary or theoretical text followed by a written report after class discussion
<b>Class participation 15%</b>		Participation does not mean just coming to class, but participating in the discussions and answering questions

<b>Grading Scale</b>	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
	96-100	92-95	86-91	81-85	77-80	71-76	65-70	62-64	59-61	55-58	50-54	0-49

<p><b>Week 1</b> <b>Sept. 11 &amp; 13</b></p>	<p>Introduction to the history of Chinese literature</p> <p>Contextualization of the texts we will be studying</p> <p>Translation issues: ethics and politics of translation; what does it mean to read in English a text originally written in a foreign language</p>	<p>Lawrence Venuti. Chapter 4: "The formation of cultural identities" <i>The scandals of translation: towards an ethics of difference</i>. Routledge: 1998, pp. 67-87. [P306.2 INTERNET electronic resource UofC]</p>
<p><b>Week 2</b> <b>Sept. 18 &amp; 20</b></p>	<p><u>Translation issues</u></p> <p>Reading Chinese literature in English: how to translate culturally-connoted images into another language/culture</p>	<p>Eugene Chen Eoyang. "Dim emblazonings: images of Chinese literature in English translation" [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b> <b>Sept. 25 &amp; 27</b></p>	<p><u>The Classic of Poetry (<i>Shijing</i>)</u></p> <p>Translations by Ezra Pound, James Legge and Wai-lim Yip</p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE OCT. 4:</b> Compare the translations by Pound and Legge of <u>one</u> poem from the <i>Shijing</i></p>	<p>1. Achilles Fang, "Introduction," <i>Shih-ching</i> [CP] 2. Ezra Pound. <i>Shih-ching</i> [CP] 3. <a href="http://ctext.org/book-of-poetry/lessons-from-the-states">http://ctext.org/book-of-poetry/lessons-from-the-states</a> 4. Wai-Lim Yip. "Translating Chinese Poetry," pp. 44-50 [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 4</b> <b>Oct. 2 &amp; 4</b></p>	<p><u>Tang dynasty poetry</u></p> <p>Translating written classical poetry: the visual/material element; the grammatical ellipses.</p>	<p>Wai-Lim Yip. "Translating Chinese Poetry," pp. 1-33 [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b> <b>Oct. 9 &amp; 11</b></p>	<p><u>Tang dynasty poetry</u></p> <p>The metrics of Chinese poetry</p> <p>Analysis of poems by Du Fu; Li Bai; Wang Wei; Meng Haoran; Zhang Ji; Wang Zhihuan</p>	<p>Edward Chang. <i>How to Read a Chinese Poem</i> [CP]</p>

<p><b>Week 6</b> <b>Oct. 16 &amp; 18</b></p>	<p><u>Tang dynasty poetry</u> Analysis of Tang dynasty poems (ct'd) The “85” project: a cross-cultural experiment in reading another culture 16 translations of one poem by Wang Wei</p> <p><b>ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE OCT. 23:</b> Compare at least two translations of “Lu Chai” by Wang Wei</p>	<p>1. Edward Chang. <i>How to Read a Chinese Poem</i> [CP] 2. <a href="http://www.85bawu.com">www.85bawu.com</a> 3. Translations of “Lu Chai” by Wang Wei: <a href="http://www.chinapage.com/poem/wangwei/wangwei-trs.html">http://www.chinapage.com/poem/wangwei/wangwei-trs.html</a></p>
<p><b>Week 7</b> <b>Oct. 23 &amp; 25</b></p>	<p><u>Modern Chinese Literature</u> The end of dynastic China; political upheavals; May 4<sup>th</sup> 1919 The meaning of literature for China’s modernity: foreign models, neologisms, rejection of old styles; Presentation of May 4<sup>th</sup> writers; focus on Lu Xun</p>	<p>Lydia H. Liu. “Theory of change, Neologisms, and Discursive Histories” [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 8</b> <b>Oct30&amp;Nov1</b></p>	<p><u>Modern Chinese Literature</u> Viewing of a documentary on Lu Xun “A shout...” Issues in the translation of Lu Xun Introduction to Lu Xun’s short stories</p>	<p>1. “A shout from outside the iron house” [VHS 50’] PL 2754 .S5 Z46 1998 2. Jeremy Tambling. “Introduction: Lu Xun in Translation” [CP] 3. Lu Xun. “Preface” to Nahan (Outcry/ Call to Arms) [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 9</b> <b>Nov. 6 &amp; 8</b></p>	<p><u>Modern Chinese Literature</u> Lu Xun’s short stories</p>	<p>1. Diary of a Madman /A Madman’s Diary [CP]</p>
<p><b>Week 10</b> <b>Nov. 13: no class</b> <b>Nov. 15</b></p>	<p><u>Modern Chinese Literature</u> Lu Xun’s short stories Lu Xun’s Old Stories Retold</p> <p><b>Assignment # 3 DUE Nov. 20:</b> On Lu Xun’s “A Happy Family”: compare with other stories read and highlight the main translation differences</p>	<p>1. Kong Yiji /Kung I-Chi [CP] 2. Medicine [CP] 3. Flight to the Moon [CP]</p> <p>Lu Xun: A Happy Family [CP]</p>

<b>Week 11</b> <b>Nov. 20 &amp; 22</b>	<u>Contemporary Chinese Fiction</u> Introduction to literature after 1949 Presentation of the main fiction writers, including Su Tong	
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov. 27 &amp; 29</b>	Discussion of Su Tong's novella <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> Viewing of excerpts of Zhang Yimou's adaptation of the same name  <b>Assignment # 4 DUE Dec. 6:</b> Compare <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> with the other two novellas ("Nineteen Thirty-Four Escapes" "Opium Family"); OR Compare the novella with the filmic adaptation	Su Tong. <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> . [book] Zhang Yimou. <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> [Film on DVD] [125'] PN1995.9 .C47 D35 2005
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Dec. 4 &amp; 6</b>	Various cultural readings of RRL: the reception in and outside of China  What kind of translation of "China" does RRL create	Su Tong. <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> . [Book] Zhang Yimou. <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> [Film on DVD] [125']

- N.B:**
1. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
  2. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.
  3. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)
  4. Making and receiving calls on cell phones are not allowed in class.
  5. Plagiarism, i.e. the use of other people's work without acknowledging it, will result in a zero.