

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**CHN 3950G Special Topic in China Studies
Chinese Diasporic Literature in North America:
Remapping Chineseness in the Age of Global Migration**

**Winter 2019
Course Outline**

Instructor: Dr. Yan Lu
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Class: 10:30AM-12:30PM Wednesday, 10:30AM-11:30AM Friday
Classroom HC-W6, Huron University College

Office Hour: 11:30AM-12:30PM Friday or by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to Chinese diasporic literature in North America and help them reflect on the changing notion of Chineseness in an age of global migration. Students will read different genres of Chinese American and Chinese Canadian literature (poetry, fiction, and prose) written by descendants of early Chinese immigrants and new Chinese immigrants from late nineteenth century to contemporary times. Students will explore the history of Chinese immigrants in North America, discrimination and resistance, cultural identity and cross-cultural experiences, as well as interracial interactions. The course is taught in English.

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 essay course from category A or B

Learning Objectives:

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

- Identify representative works of Chinese diasporic literature and their artistic features;
- Compare English-speaking second- or third-generation Chinese descendants and Chinese-speaking new Chinese immigrants;
- Understand the history and diverse Chinese diasporic experiences in North America;
- Gain a critical understanding of the social and cultural identities of Chinese immigrants;
- Engage with local Chinese communities and explore interactions between the Chinese and other ethnic communities;

Textbooks and Other Required Resources:

Course package available at Custom Course Books, The Book Store, UCC.

Class Methods:

Classes are usually composed of a lecture as well as a film screening or a discussion session led by students. Discussion will be based on the assigned readings. Students are required to participate actively in the discussion.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Interview and report:	10%
Presentation and Discussion:	10%
Presentation Follow-up Paper:	15%
In-class Mid-term Test:	20%
Final Examination:	35%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation do not simply mean that you attend all classes, coming to class on time and staying until the end. It is most important that you read the texts and come to class prepared. You must actively participate in the discussion and interact with the instructor and your fellow students.

Interview, Presentation and Follow-up Paper

In the first half of the semester, students will interview a Chinese immigrant about his/her experiences and views on issues related to Chinese community and write a short report. In the second half of the semester, students will sign up for the session that they plan to do their presentation on readings and/or films. The presentation topics will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. You should inform the instructor of your plan for the discussion session one week before your presentation. You need to prepare a short oral presentation for 10 minutes and three questions for discussion. You are required to submit a follow-up paper one week after your presentation. Specific instructions for interview, presentation, and follow-up paper will be provided in class.

Tests

The mid-term test will take place in class on **Feb. 27**. It is two hours in length and covers lectures and readings in the first six weeks. The final exam is scheduled during the exam period. It is three hours and will be based on all lectures and readings covered this semester. No use of reference materials or electronic devices is permitted for both tests. Exam format will be given in class prior to the exam.

Special Instructions:

1. Once you sign up your presentation, you cannot change your topic without the permission of the instructor. Presentation and discussion are done in class and there is **no make-up** except in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances. In these exceptional circumstances, you must notify the instructor **one week** in advance. There will be no grade given in the case of no-show without prior notice.

2. There is a penalty for late submission of interview report and presentation follow-up paper. Penalty is **5%** for **each calendar day** to a total of **seven** days. Assignments more than seven days late will not be accepted.
3. **No make-ups** will be given for tests, except in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances.
4. All the primary and secondary sources must be appropriately cited. No form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be tolerated.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1 Introduction

Jan. 9 Introduction

Jan. 11 Film: *Iron Road* (1)

Week 2 The First Chinese North American Writer

Jan. 16 Reading: *Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Writings*, 42-61, 218-230.

Jan. 18 Film: *Iron Road* (2)

Week 3 Gold Mountain: Chinese Labourers

Jan. 23 Reading: "The Dance and the Railroad," in *Trying to Find Chinatown*, 53-88.

Jan. 25 Film: *Iron Road* (3)

Week 4 Gold Mountain: Chinese Women

Jan. 30 Reading: *The Lost Daughter of Happiness*, 1-44.

Feb. 1 Film: *Under the Willow Tree: Pioneer Chinese Women in Canada*

Week 5 Exclusion and Detention

Feb. 6 Reading: Selected poems from *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910-1940* (The link to e-book will be posted on OWL).

Feb. 8 Film: *Angel Island: Where Angels Feared to Tread*

Week 6 Alternative Contact: Chinese-Native Encounter

Feb. 13 Reading: *Disappearing Moon Café*, 1-18, 217-237.

Feb. 15 Film: *Cedar and Bamboo*

Feb. 20 & 22 Reading Week

Week 7

Feb. 27 Mid-term test

March 1 Discussion Session: Interviews with Chinese Canadian Immigrants

Week 8 Chinatown: Then and Now

March 6 Reading: *The Jade Peony*, 44-68.

March 8 Film: *In the Shadow of Gold Mountain*

Week 9 Assimilation and Resistance

March 13 Reading: *The Women Warrior*. Chapter 5, 161-209.

March 15 Film: *Double Happiness*

Week 10 Chinese Restaurant and Racial Hybridity

March 20 Reading: *Diamond Grill*, 5-36.

March 22 Film: *Between: Living in the Hyphen*

Week 11 Spirit of the North

March 27 Reading: "Toward the North," in *Toward the North*, 212-246.

March 29 Discussion Session: Presentation

Week 12 Writing in a Second Language

April 3 Reading: "The Language of Betrayal," in *The Writer as Migrant*, 31-60.

April 5 Discussion Session: Presentation

April 11-30 Final Exam Period

Note: Films are subject to change due to availability.



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Conduct* at:

<https://huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic

advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning

policies and procedures may be found at:
http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <https://huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility> (“Cancellations and Closures”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwo.com/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science>