Course description
Focusing primarily upon fiction, this course traces the most important literary developments in 20th century China in the context of the social and political forces that inspired them. We’ll start with the May Fourth Movement (1919). We’ll think about the exploitation and oppression that preoccupied so many writers as we study their representations of it among women, peasants, and laborers. We’ll read Mao Zedong’s talks on literature and art, in which he insisted that all art must serve the revolution, and we’ll study some of the literary consequences. We’ll follow the literary breakthroughs after Mao, right up through the some of the most recent work available in English, including works of diaspora writers. Even as we focus on these works in their Chinese contexts, we also inevitably engage questions about world literature, since everything we read for the course comes to us via the selection and filtering process of translation. Class format will be discussion, with some informal lecture.

Course objectives
By the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of 20th century Chinese literature, along with an improved ability to develop interpretations of literature, culture, and society, as well as to express these interpretations persuasively in speech and writing.

Required Texts
Ba Jin, *Family*
Lao She, *Rickshaw*
Da Chen, *The Colors of the Mountain*
Yan Geling, *The Lost Daughter of Happiness*

About the Spring 2007 version of this course:
As of November 4, 2006: Many of the readings and assignments will stay the same, some will change. Gist of the changes I envision (so far): instead of turning in your reading and preparation notes each day, I will probably require some combination of postings of observations/questions on Blackboard to be due a few hours before class begins and short response papers. Maoist book review, main paper, and oral presentation will stay. Last year’s class was a bit special because of the public lecture and its timing. No public lecture is planned for this year. I will probably bring us up to the 1980s earlier in the semester, and show more films for the post-Mao period. Questions? I won’t think about this much more until later, but feel free to contact me at csilber@ or 4538.

Required Film Viewings and Public Lecture
The schedule below contains 4 required film viewings and a required public lecture, on Wednesdays: 1/18, 3/8, 3/29, 4/12, and 4/19; please mark your calendar now. Each film
is offered at 4:00-6:30 and 7:30-10:00, in the Science Building. If you can’t make a screening, you can view the film on your own at the media library (but check in advance to be sure the film will be there; to prepare for the screenings, the AV department needs to put the film in the screening room in advance).

**Assignments, Expectations, and Evaluation**
Evaluation will be based on preparation (20%) and participation (10%), an oral presentation (20%), and 2 essays (50%).

You are expected to attend class each and every time, having done all the reading/screening. To encourage your engagement with the material and to enhance the quality of our discussions, you will be required to turn in at the end of each class a piece of paper with your preparation jottings on it—thoughts and questions about the reading. These will combine into your preparation score.

**Oral presentation**—see schedule below. We’ll meet individually to discuss these 7-10 minute presentations on various topics relevant to the course.

**Essays**
Make appointments now with the Writing Center.
1. Maoist Book Review, 2-3 pp., due 3/10 F, 1:00 pm my office (20%)
2. You may do this at any point beginning in February; it doesn’t have to be an end-of-the-semester project. Major paper on a topic of your choice, to be discussed and cleared with me. (30% total)
   a) Topic due no later than 4/14 F noon: email or my office. Having discussed/cleared your topic with me, write it down and turn it in. (5%)
   b) Thesis/argument and first paragraph due no later than 4/21 F noon: email or my office (5%)
   c) plan/outline due no later than 4/28 F noon email or my office (5%)
   d) Paper due no later than 5/9 T noon, my office (no email). (15%)

**Course Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>required film viewing, Williams v. 1 (1911-1949)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Science Aud, 4:00 and 7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>R</td>
<td><em>Family</em></td>
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<td>1/24</td>
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<td><em>Family</em></td>
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<td>1/26</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>LU Xun, Lyell introduction ix-xxi; “Preface” 21-28; “Diary of a Madman,” Yang trans., 7-18</td>
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1/31  T  LU Xun, “Ah Q—The Real Story” 101-172
2/2  R  LU Xun, “New Year’s Sacrifice” 219-241
2/7  T  LU Xun, “Mourning the Dead” 338-362
2/9  R  LU Xun, “Medicine” and articles “On ‘Medicine’”
2/14  T  YU Dafu, “Sinking”

Left-Wing Writers

2/16  R  DING Ling, “Miss Sophia’s Diary”
2/21  T  ROU Shi, “Slave Mother”
2/23  R  WU Tzu-hsiang, “Young Master Gets His Tonic”
2/28  T  LAO She, *Rickshaw*, 1-116
3/2  R  LAO She, *Rickshaw*, 117-end

Revolutionary Literature

3/7  T  MAO Zedong, “Talks at the Yan’an Forum on Literature and Art”
            Science Aud, 4:00 and 7:30
3/9  R  ZHAO Shuli, “Lucky” and “The Unglovable Hands”
3/10  F  Second paper due 1:00 pm at my office

Have A Good Break!

One Hundred Flowers

3/28  T  WANG Meng, “A Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department”
          and criticisms (474-526)

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

3/29  W  Required screening, *Morning Sun*
            Science Building, room G042, 4:00 and 7:30
            study the website: [http://www.morningsun.org/about/index.html](http://www.morningsun.org/about/index.html)
3/30 R discuss film and website

4/4 T Lyle Trued’s thesis

Literature of the Wounded

4/6 R LU Hsin-hua, “The Wound”

The New Realism

4/11 T GAO Xiaosheng, “Li Shunda Builds a House” (1979)

Memoir

4/12 W required screening: Zhang Yimou: *To Live*
Science Aud, 4:00 and 7:30

4/13 R discuss film; begin reading Da Chen, *The Colors of the Mountain*

4/14 F Paper topic due 12:00 noon—cleared with me, and written up

4/18 T Da CHEN, *The Colors of the Mountain*, 3-152

4/19 W 7:30 p.m., Science Auditorium: Da Chen lecture (required)

4/20 R Da CHEN, *The Colors of the Mountain*, 152-307; class discussion with author Da Chen

4/21 F Argument/thesis and first paragraph of final paper due, 1:00 pm, my office

Searching-for-Roots Literature

4/25 T HAN Shaogong, “Pa Pa Pa” (~60)

Avant-garde Fiction

4/27 R YU Hua, “One Kind of Reality” (~50)

Women Writers in Diaspora

5/2 T YAN Geling, *The Lost Daughter of Happiness*, 1-146

5/4 R *Lost Daughter*, 146-end

5/9 T final papers due by noon at my office—no exceptions