

## **CHN 3654G – HUC**

### **Trauma, Memory and Narrative in Chinese Literature and Film**

**Class Time:** Monday 3:30-5:30, Wednesday 3:30-4:30  
Huron University College W18

**Instructor:** Dr. Guoyuan Liu

**Office:** Lucas 1

**Email:** gliu23@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 1:30-3:30

**Antirequisite(s):** None.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 Essay course from Category A or B.

#### **Course description:**

Trauma is “a crisis of representation” (Hirsch). Trauma is “socially mediated” (Alexander). To understand trauma, it is not enough just to examine the incident that has caused the wound. More importantly, we should explore the way stories of traumatic experience are told.

This course examines the narratives of traumatic experience in contemporary Chinese literature and film. Our focus will be on portrayal of trauma caused by wartime atrocity, political violence and natural disasters. Drawing on various approaches to trauma in film studies, literary criticism and social theories, we will analyze the representation of trauma in selected films, literary texts and memoirs. We will also investigate how historical trauma in the collective memories of the Chinese people shaped and reshaped the Chinese national identity, through popular conceptions and imaginations.

#### **Taught in English.**

#### **Course objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to

1. gain a general understanding of “trauma”;
2. have a general knowledge of approaches to “trauma” in in film studies, literary criticism and social theories;
3. demonstrate basic skills for analyzing literature and film with reference to their historical, social and political contexts.

#### **Literary texts:**

Lu Xun: “Preface to Outcry”

Yu Hua: *To Live*. Trans. Michael Berry. New York: Anchor, 2003.

Eileen Chang: *Lust, Caution*. Trans. Julia Lovell. *Lust, Caution: The Story, the Screenplay, and the Making of the Film*. New York: Pantheon, 2007. 3-48.

**Films:**

*A City of Sadness* (1989, dir. Hou Xiaoxian)  
*The Blue Kite* (1992, dir. Tian Zhuangzhuang)  
*To Live* (1994, dir. Zhang Yimou)  
*Red Cherry* (1995, dir. Ye Ying)  
*Devil on the Doorstep* (2000, dir. Jiang Wen)  
*City of Life and Death* (2009, dir. Lu Chuan)  
*Aftershock* (2010, dir. Feng Xiaogang)  
*Home Coming* (2016, dir. Zhang Yimou)

**Theoretical perspectives:**

Theoretical perspectives in this course help you understand how trauma can be understood in different ways. The following works will be summarized in lectures, and short excerpts will be read and discussed in class.

Jeffery Alexander. *Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity*  
 Michael Berry. *A History of Pain*  
 Cathy Caruth. *Unclaimed Experience*  
 Sigmund Freud. *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*  
 Joshua Hirsch. *Afterimage: Film, Trauma, and the Holocaust*  
 Diana Lary. *The Chinese People at War*  
 Susan Sontag. *Regarding the Pain of Others*

**Class Methods:** Lecture, in-class discussion, written assignments

**Method of evaluation and assessment:**

Attendance	10%
Participation/Discussion	10%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Short written assignment	20%
Long written assignment	50%

**Schedule of classes:****Monday Jan. 7 Introduction**

Understanding trauma; trauma and national identity; course structure; course work.

**Wednesday Jan. 9 Trauma in Chinese history: A general survey**

Reading: *A History of Pain* (selection, to be read in class);

“Preface to Outcry” (available on OWL).

**Monday Jan. 14 The city of life and death**

Film: *City of Life and Death* (2009, dir. Lu Chuan).

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**Wednesday Jan. 16 The pain of others**

Reading: Sontag: *Regarding the pain of others* (selection, to be read in class).

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**Monday Jan. 21 Unclaimed experience**

Reading: *Unclaimed experience* (selection, to be read in class);

*Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (Selection, to be read in class).

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**Wednesday Jan. 23 Afterimage: film and trauma**

Reading: *Afterimage* (selection, to be read in class).

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**Short assignment to be explained.**

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**Monday Jan. 28 Devil on the Doorstep**

Film: *Devil on the Doorstep* (2000, dir. Jiang Wen).

Reading: *The Chinese People at War* (Selection, available on OWL).

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**Wednesday Jan. 30 Trauma and social deformation**

Reading: "Lust, Caution." Trans. Julia Lovell. 3-18 (available on OWL)

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**Monday Feb. 4 Lust, Caution**

Reading: "Lust, Caution." Trans. Julia Lovell. 19-33(available on OWL).

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**Wednesday Feb. 6 The haunting and the haunted**

Reading: "Lust, Caution." Trans. Julia Lovell. 34-48 (available on OWL).

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**Monday Feb. 11 Essay workshop**

Reading: *To Live* 3-21.

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**Essay to be explained**

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**Wednesday Feb. 13 Cultural trauma**

Reading: *Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity* (selection, to be read in class);

*To Live* 21-38.

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**Feb 18-22: Spring Reading Week.**

No class meeting.

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**Monday Feb. 25 Red Cherry**

Film: *Red Cherry* (1995, dir. Ye Ying).

Reading: *To Live* 38-57

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**Short assignment due**

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**Wednesday Feb. 27 Narrative as a scar**

Reading: *To Live* 57-74.

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**Monday Mar. 4 A city of sadness**

Film: *A City of Sadness* (1989, dir. Hou Xiaoxian).

Reading: *To Live* 74-93.

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**Wednesday Mar. 6 trauma and political violence**

Reading: *To Live* 93-110.

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**Monday Mar. 11 The Blue Kite**

Film: *The Blue Kite* (1992, dir. Tian Zhuangzhuang).

Reading: *To Live* 110-127

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**Wednesday Mar. 13 Trauma and political violence (cont'd)**

Reading: *To Live* 127-144.

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**Monday Mar. 18 Home Coming**

Film: *Home Coming* (2016, dir. Zhang Yimou).

Reading: *To Live* 144-162.

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**Wednesday Mar 20 Trauma and Memory**

Reading: *To Live* 162-179.

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**Monday Mar. 25 Aftershock**

Film: *Aftershock* (2010, dir. Feng Xiaogang).

Reading: *To Live* 179-196.

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**Wednesday Mar 27 Trauma and Natural Disaster**

Reading: *To Live* 196-214.

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**Monday Apr. 2 Trauma and collective identity**

Reading: *To Live* 214-232.

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**Essay due**

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**Wednesday Apr. 4 trauma and narrative**

Reading: "Translator's afterword" *To Live*, 237-45

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**Monday Apr. 8 Course conclusion**

No reading.

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**OWL sakai**

Students must consult OWL for this course regularly. All course materials and announcements will be conveyed by this and no other means.

**Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices, including laptops, tablet computers, smart phones, etc., can be used in the classroom for pedagogical/academic purposes only (such as note taking, reading, research, etc.), and for no other purposes (such as gaming, social networking, etc.).

**Attendance & Participation**

Attendance is calculated by hours attended divided by total lecture hours. An attendance sheet will be passed around during the lecture. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before the end of the lecture. The attendance sheet cannot be signed on a different day. Signing the attendance sheet in place of anyone but oneself is considered

cheating and will be penalized.

Participation is evaluated by the quantity and quality of comments in class discussion.

### **Written Assignments**

Details will be explained in lecture and will be posted on the course website on OWL.

The instructor is more than happy to provide help with the assignment. Yet please notice:  
1) The instructor will only give advice and make suggestions; it is the student's responsibility to finish the assignment independently; 2) The instructor's advice and suggestions do not guarantee a high grade.

The written assignment is to be submitted on the course website. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that the assignment is successfully submitted.

**Plagiarism is not tolerated in any situation.**



### **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](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](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](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:

### **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](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/uwocom/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](mailto: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>