

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **The Chinese Novel**

Course Number and Section

CHINESE

3651F 550

Instructor Name(s): Yan Lu

Instructor Email(s): ylu669@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the major developments in the history and art of the Chinese novel from its beginning in the 14th century to its maturation in the late 18th century. The core of the course will be devoted to the study of four masterworks in order to elucidate particular characteristics of the Chinese novel, such as its didacticism, its generating ideology, its compositional features and its language and narrative methods. The approach employed to investigate the selected works is the intrinsic or literary approach that focuses on the plot construction, characterization, narrative stance, and techniques and strategies of meaning formation in the texts. Texts will be further explored from a comparative perspective in relation to earlier versions and later literary or film adaptations in evolving social discourses and contexts. The course is taught in English.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Outline the major developments in the history of the Chinese novel;
Identify the main generic features of the Chinese novel;
Describe the common and unique narrative methods and techniques used in narrating the story;
Identify some important works, major authors and critics and their contribution to the development of the Chinese novel;
Develop analytical skills and critical thinking abilities in studying Chinese novels.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Course readings are available on Brightspace. All course materials are intended for course use only and may not be reproduced.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Ongoing	10
Presentation	Varied	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Term paper	12/09/2026	25
Midterm test	11/04/2026	25
Group project	10/28/2026	15
Assignment	12/02/2026	10

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.