

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
CHN2271F 550 Special Topic in China Studies:
Environment and Ecocriticism in Chinese Literature and Film
Summer Intersession 2023
Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Yuanfang Zhang
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Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 1:30PM-4:30PM, Room: W18

Office Hour: by appointment, A20, Huron college

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the literary theory of ecocriticism and explores the representation of nature and environment in Chinese literature and film in contemporary era of industrialization, modernization, and urbanization. The course focuses particularly on the relationship that various Chinese communities have with the natural world and the influence of politics, ethnicity, gender, class on such relationship. The course is taught in Chinese.

Pre-requisites: N/A

Learning Objectives:

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

- Outline the major developments in ecocriticism in Chinese literary and cultural studies;
- Identify some important writers, film directors, and their works that explore the environmental issues and raise public awareness about eco problems in China;
- Understand social, political, economic factors that influence environment through the lens of literary and visual representation;
- Develop analytical skills and critical thinking abilities in studying Chinese literature and film from the perspective of ecocriticism.

Textbooks and Other Required Resources:

Readings and films will be provided on OWL course website.

Class Methods:

In-person lectures.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance and Active Participation:	15%
Proposal:	10%
Midterm Test:	35%
In-class quizzes:	20%
Term paper:	20%

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.

One component of participation includes your posting on the forum at OWL (5%). The forum posting involves finding texts, then posting what you have found/made and writing and posting a short commentary about it in relation to the course content. The “text” can be an essay, a book chapter, an excerpt from any form of a literary work (fiction, poem, etc.), or a short video clip. It could be either the readings from this course or external sources you find by yourself. Once you have selected and posted your text, I then want you to add a paragraph or two of your reflections on it and on its relevance to the issue/subject assigned.

Test

The mid-term test will take place in class on **May 24**. It is two hours and a half in length and covers lectures and readings from the past sessions. Exam format will be given in class prior to the exam. No aids are allowed.

In-class quizzes

In this section, you will be given questions based on the class materials and lectures. You will compose an essay (one page per essay) by following academic rubrics to incorporate both your analysis and class materials to address the questions. No aids are allowed. No make-up for the missed quizzes, except in the case of documented medical circumstances.

Term Paper and Proposal

Students will write a research paper of at least 3000 words. Please provide a word count at the end of your paper. You must consult scholarly books and articles and not limit your research to Internet sources. All the primary and secondary sources must be appropriately cited in the paper and listed in your bibliography in given format. No form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be tolerated. The paper should be typewritten and double-spaced with a clearly defined thesis statement supported by relevant evidence. The electronic copy of the essay must be uploaded to OWL **by the end of June 2**. Specific instructions for the term paper and proposal will be provided in class.

Special Instructions:

There is a penalty for late submission of the term paper. Penalty is **1%** for **each calendar day** to a total of **three** days.

Schedule of Classes

May 15 Introduction

Reading: 《三体》（电视剧节选）

May 16 The Rural and The Urban: Conquering Nature

Reading: 阿城《树王》

May 17 The Rural and The Urban: Displacement

Film: 贾樟柯 *still life* 《三峡好人》 (Part 1)

May 18 The Rural and the Urban: Dissolving the Divide

Reading: 陈应松 《像白云一样生活》

贾樟柯 *still life* 《三峡好人》 (Part 2)

May 22 Victoria Day no class

May 23 The Rural and The Urban: Waste

Film: 王久良 《垃圾围城》

May 24 Mid-term Exam

May 25 Nature and Minorities: Envisioning the Marine culture

Reading: 吴明益 《复眼人》 第七至九章

May 29 Nature and the Nation

Film: 陈凯歌 《黄土地》

May 30 Nature and Minorities: Ethnic Minority

Reading: 迟子建 《额尔古纳河右岸》 (清晨、半个月亮)

May 31 Human and Animals: The Trans-species Imagining

Film: 周星驰 《美人鱼》

June 1 The Post-human Era

Reading: 陈楸帆 《鼠年》

Term paper is due on June 2, 23:59pm.

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2023

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University 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. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

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 enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision 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.

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.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

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 website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and 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.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration 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. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). 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.

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

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar/) 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: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.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.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you

should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic-calendar/)