

**HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**CHN 2650G Fiction and Traditional Chinese Society**  
**Summer day 2022**  
**Course Outline**

**Instructor:** Dr. Yuanfang Zhang  
Office: Room A20, Huron University College  
E-mail: [yuanfang.zhang@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:yuanfang.zhang@huron.uwo.ca)

**Class:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:30 am- 12:30 pm, HC-V210  
**Office Hour:** 12:30PM-1:30PM Thursday or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course examines various aspects of traditional Chinese society through the lens of fiction. It introduces students to the major genres of Chinese fiction (tales, short stories, and novels) from the early period to late Qing. Through reading these selected works of traditional Chinese literature, we will examine some of the major features of traditional Chinese society: religious and philosophical beliefs, the imperial system and dynastic change, gender relations, political economy, daily lives of people of different genders and classes, and sexuality. Literary narratives of Chinese fiction enhance students' understanding of the development of premodern Chinese society and its gradual transition to the modern period. The course is taught in English. All works are read in translation.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

- Understand the origins and developments in the history of Chinese fiction;
- Identify major narrative forms in traditional Chinese fiction and their generic features;
- Develop analytical skills and critical thinking abilities in studying traditional Chinese fiction;
- Elaborate the political, social, economic, and cultural characteristics of premodern Chinese society.

**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 and 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%
Presentation and follow-up paper:	15%
In-class Mid-term Test:	30%
Final Examination:	30%
Pop-up quizzes	15%

### **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.

### **Presentation and Follow-up Paper**

Students will sign up for the session that they plan to do their presentation. You should prepare a short oral presentation and lead in-class discussions. The total presentation & discussion time is 15 minutes. You are required to submit a follow-up paper one week after your presentation, which outlines your presentation by following the academic format. Specific instructions for the presentation and follow-up paper will be provided in class.

### **Tests**

The mid-term test will take place in class on Aug. 3. It is two hours in length and covers lectures and readings in the first five classes, inclusively. The final exam is scheduled during the exam period (I will keep you updated about the exam date). It is two hours and will be based on all lectures and readings covered in 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 in advance. There will be no grade given in the case of no-show without prior notice.
2. **No make-ups** will be given for tests, except in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances.
3. All the primary and secondary sources must be appropriately cited. No form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be tolerated.

### **Pop-up Quizzes**

There will be several in-class pop-quizzes.

**Please see the accommodation policies outlined in the Huron Appendix to Course Outlines, posted on the OWL course site.**

### **Jul. 25 Introduction**

### **Jul. 26 The Origin of Chinese Fiction: Historiography**

Reading: “The Biography of Jing Ke” in *Records of the Grand Historian*, 167-178.

Film clips

**Jul. 27 The *Chih-kuai* Tales: The Traditional Society and Its Discontents**

Reading: “Kan Chiang and Mo Yeh” in *Classical Chinese Tales*, 73-75;  
“The Free and Unrestrained” in *Shih-shuo Hsin-yü*, 399-422.

**Jul. 28 The *Ch’uan-ch’i* Tales: Literary Men and Courtesans**

Reading: “The Courtesan Li Wa” in *Traditional Chinese Stories*, 163-171.

**Aug. 2 The *Chuang-ch’i* Tales: The Lady Knight-Errant**

Reading: “Nieh Yin-niang” in *Classical Chinese Tales*, 357-362.

Film: *The Assassin*

**Aug. 3 Mid-term Test**

**Aug. 4 The *Hua-pen* Stories: Marriage and Seduction**

Reading: “The Pearl Shirt Reencountered” in *Traditional Chinese Stories*, 264-292.

**Aug. 8 The Ming Novel: Money and the Changing Social Order**

Reading: *The Plum in the Golden Vase*, Volume 1, Chapter 19, 376-400.

**Aug. 9 Short Stories: Sex and Gender**

Reading: “Miss Ying-ning, or The Laughing Girl” in *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio*, 65-76.

**Aug. 10 The Qing Novel: Utopia or Dystopia**

Reading: *Flowers in the Mirror*, 58-66, 107-123. **The Qing Novel: The Lure of the Modern**

Reading: *The Travels of Lao Ts’an*, Chapter 1, 3-11.

**Aug. 11 Presentations (the last 12 students)**

Please see the presentation schedule to decide which date you will opt in for your presentation. The schedule will be provided on the first class.



**Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2022**

**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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). 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](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, 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**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

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://academicsupport.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, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, 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) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto: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 where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. 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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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>

### **Mental Health & Wellness Support 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. 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](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

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