

**CHINESE V33.0222: READINGS IN CHINESE CULTURE II  
(Spring 2011)**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the second part of a one-year course designed for students who have completed 3 years of learning in Chinese at NYU, or equivalent. By working through authentic Chinese writings, it is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To develop speaking skills needed for semi-formal or formal presentation on academic topics;
- To develop more specialized vocabulary;
- To further improve reading speed and develop skills needed to conduct textual analysis on and, on some occasions, translate texts with syntactical sophistication and stylistic nuance;
- To develop responsiveness to and ability to interpret linguistic features of different genres and writing styles;
- To enhance ability to intelligently write with cohesion and coherence, and in length on academic topics;
- To advance strategies for autonomous learning of Chinese from an analytical perspective.

In this course, students are required to take the initiative in working on technical aspects of language acquisition, such as character-writing practicing, checking up and memorizing new words and learning the correct usage of new patterns, etc. By enrolling in this class, all students pledge that they will speak Chinese whenever possible, to thoroughly preview before the class and thoroughly review after the class.

For Spring 2011, this course will focus on materials that are reflective of the socio-cultural transformation of contemporary China in the post-Mao era. A broad range of genres will be covered, from the journalistic, essayistic, fictional, autobiographical to the cinematic.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course requirements include attendance, active participation in class activities, homework (mainly in the form of translation, response paper or creative writing), quizzes, oral presentation. **Particular emphasis will be given to the effort a student makes in applying what s/he learned in the course when participating in classroom discussion and/or completing writing assignment.**

By the end of the semester, every student is required to submit a portfolio consisting of all the revised compositions, along with a written explanation (either in English or Chinese) on the areas you think you have improved and those where you think you need to focus on in the future.

Extra credit(s) will be given, up to 10 points toward a student's final grade, if the student does extra work on his or her own initiative (in the form of daily or weekly journal writing, for example), on a consistent basis over the course of the semester.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult a Chinese-Chinese, instead of Chinese-English, when looking up new vocabulary. Recommended on-line Chinese-Chinese dictionaries are:

Chinese/Chinese: <http://xh.5156edu.com/> (在线新华字典)

Chinese/Chinese: <http://www.zdic.net/cd/ci/6/ZdicE4ZdicBBZdicBF65755.htm> (汉典)

## **GROUND RULES**

**No make-ups** will be given for tests or quizzes. If you are ill or observing a religious holiday, you will be excused from that test or quiz.

You are allowed only one free, unexplained or unexcused absence. Absences can be excused only for religious reasons or by your illness, for which a dated doctor's note is required.

If you are late for a class more than 15 minutes, it will count as an absence, and the teacher will no longer be responsible for including you in drill or answering your questions in class.

All assignments should be handed in before the class begins. Late assignments will **NOT** be credited toward the final grade.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Class Participation 20%\*

Homework Assignments 20%\*

Quizzes 30%

Oral presentation 10% (5% for written hand-out, and 5% for presentation itself)\*

Final project 20%

\* Attendance: Every unexcused absence will result in 1-point deduction in the final grade.

\* Students should discuss their topics and dates for oral presentations no later April 13.

**Class Schedule (subject to change when necessary)**

M	T	W	R
	1/25 Introduction		1/27 新闻特写： 肚皮改变了脑袋
	2/1 新闻特写： 肚皮改变了脑袋		2/3 新闻特写： 肚皮改变了脑袋
	2/8 余华： 十八岁出门远行		2/10 余华： 十八岁出门远行
	2/15 余华： 十八岁出门远行		2/17 王朔： 《过把瘾就死》 (节选)
	2/22 王朔： 《过把瘾就死》 (节选)		2/24 王朔： 《过把瘾就死》 (节选)
	3/1 蔡翔： 《1970，末代回忆》 (节选)		3/3 蔡翔： 《1970，末代回忆》 (节选)
	3/8 蔡翔： 《1970，末代回忆》 (节选)		3/10 徐冰： 《愚昧是一种养料》 (节选)
	3/22 徐冰： 《愚昧是一种养料》 (节选)		3/24 徐冰： 《愚昧是一种养料》 (节选)
	3/29 尹吉男： 后现代主义的等待		3/31 尹吉男： 手艺 泛表演 细腰

	4/5 尹吉男： 手艺 泛表演 细腰		4/7 王安忆： 《长恨歌》（节选）
	4/12 王安忆： 《长恨歌》（节选）		4/14 王安忆： 《长恨歌》（节选）
	4/19 甘阳： 左宗棠鸡		4/21 甘阳： 移鼠
	4/26 毛尖： 民工吃西餐 国学傍 大款		4/28 毛尖： 芙蓉姐姐
	5/3 电影： 《黄土地》		5/5 电影： 《黄土地》
5/9 Final project due			

(Please note that the above schedule is subject to change as the instructor sees fit)