IAS 2510 - Introduction to Chinese Literature

Instructor: Bei Dao

1. Objective: The course aims at providing you with a general knowledge of Chinese literature through intensive studies of representative literary works. Besides the aesthetics of Chinese literature, you will also be acquainted with some basic concepts of Chinese culture in the context of historical and social background. After taking this course, you should be adequately prepared for further pursuits in Chinese studies.

2. Class time is divided into three segments:
   a. Lecture (history and background)
   b. Discussion (specific literary works)
   c. Tutorial (oral presentations)

3. You have to prepare for each class beforehand. Study the assigned readings and take notes. Be prepared to answer questions during class.

4. Discussion: You are encouraged to participate actively and freely in class discussions. As an incentive, your participation (and lack of participation) will be graded.

5. Tutorials: You will take turns conducting seminars on assigned topics. Your allotted time is 20 minutes, including a q & a segment.

6. Assignments: Two short papers.

7. Grading Scheme:
   Class Participation 20%
   Tutorial Presentations 20%
   Papers (2) 60%

Major Topics

1. Essentials of Chinese Literary Art
2. Modernity
3. Contemporary Literature
4. Historical Perspectives of Chinese Literature

Reference Books

China’s Avant-Garde Fiction. US: Duke University Press