



Course syllabus for:

EA LANG 105 — Fall 2008
Romantic Core Values in East Asian Premodern Literature and Contemporary Film

Instructor: John R. Wallace / Meets: T & Th 9:30 – 11 AM, Wheeler 122

Web sites: www.sonic.net/~tabine and bSpace

How to reach me

Office hours: 1:15-2PM T/Th and by appointment

My office is Dwinelle 3409

My email is jwallace@berkeley.edu

- It is helpful if you include EA105 and your first and/or last name in the *subject* line of emails to me. This is very useful when I do email searches.
- I often do not check email after 9:30PM. Please keep that in mind.

Announcements

When not by email, the EA105 MainPage at www.sonic.net/~tabine is the **official source of class announcements and schedules**. **DO NOT** download the online schedule. It is definitely subject to change. The MainPage side bar also indicates the most current version of this course syllabus. The number at the top of this page and the number on the MainPage should match.

Course content & goal

This course takes the topic of traditional romantic values as a way of considering how the artistic expression of social values changes under various contexts. The class provides an opportunity for students to consider how romantic values differ among three countries—China, Korea and Japan—as well as how these values change when the audience is premodern/modern, domestic/international, readers (of literary texts)/viewers (of cinema). Thus the student, while exploring differences and similarities among three East Asian cultures, has ample opportunity to consider the uses and limitations of comparative analysis as well as the stability and variations of core human values that are often misunderstood as absolute.

The class is structured as two approximately equal components: premodern literary texts and twenty-first century films all dealing with matters of love as a central feature of the narrative. One follows the other.

Prerequisites

None.

Course materials

Much of the assigned reading has been ordered for the class and is available for purchase at Analog Books (1816 Euclid Ave. @ North Gate, tel. 843-1816). The books, in the approximate order that we read them are:

title	notes for those seeking alternate purchase options
The Tale of Genji Penguin classics. By Murasaki Shikibu Trans. by Royall Tyler	Please use Royall Tyler's abridged edition. You might consider buying the complete edition. Sometimes the prices are not that different. Please do NOT purchase Seidensticker's translation, either the full or abridged one. The abridged provides different chapters from Tyler and Seidensticker uses different names for the characters. We don't have time for this sort of confusion. Please proceed with care if using Chinese or Korean translations. Modern Japanese translations are fine. Yosano, Enchi, Tanizaki are good translations.
Story of the Stone, Vol 1. Penguin classics. By Cao Xueqin Trans. by David Hawkes	Usually known as <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> in English. The Penguin edition is what we are ordering. This is a multivolume work. We are reading Volume 1, from the first 26 chapters. There are multiple translations. The romanization of the names might be different but otherwise it should be OK. I would like all of us to use the Penguin edition if

	we can but this isn't completely necessary.
Kuunmong: The Cloud Dream of the Nine Kurodaha Press. By Kim Manjung Trans. by James Scarth Gale	There is also a version inside <i>Virtuous Women: Three Classic Korean Novels</i> . This book can sometimes be found for a low price.

Aside from these books, there will be some other readings. They will be provided as pdf files.
All films scheduled for this class are available at the East Asian Library Media Center.

Laptops and cell phones

Please see my policy and comments regarding the use of laptops because laptop use can affect a student's grade. It is linked on the side bar of the MainPage. I can add that laptops should not be used during the screening of films. If you really want to do so, explain your reason to me, sit on the back row, and type as quietly as possible. The work will need to be related to the class and I reserve the right to ask to see that work at the end of the class session.

Please remember to silence cells phones and such. Class discussions can be very complicated and this is an unnecessary distraction. The effectiveness of a movie can be spoiled by cell phone noise, too.

Attendance

This class does not require attendance. On the other hand, much of the material needed to do well in the class is delivered by lecture and only lecture. Concepts explained in lecture need to be part of the mid-term and final paper to score well.

Please do not arrive late to class!

- ◆ We have a very busy schedule. Ours is a morning class; arrive ready to think and work in good form.
- ◆ All quizzes are pop quizzes and happen at the very beginning of class. They cannot be made up when missed or shortened because of late arrival.
- ◆ In the first half of the course we discuss a number of complicated issues that students need to have a good grasp of in order to do well on assignments, the mid-term and the final paper. Late arrival is disruptive.
- ◆ In the second half of the class it is very tempting to arrive late since we are "just watching films". Please arrive on time! The room is crowded and searching out an open desk in the semi-dark, walking in front of students and so forth is distracting and easily avoidable.

Academic honesty

This class has a number of assignments that are to be completed outside the classroom in specific way in order for the class to function correctly and for the student to develop his or her individual stance on certain issues, stances that will be needed in writing the final paper. Observations assignments in particular are specifically meant for the student to explore his or her own thinking on a topic. Discussing the assignment can subvert that purpose. **I ask all students who enroll in this class to not discuss how they have, or plan, to answer an assignment in those cases when I have clearly indicated that individual work is expected.** To not do so will be considered, unfortunately, academic dishonesty and can incur grade penalties or more. Further, there are meetings between students outside of class for which the content of that meeting needs to be reported to me. Misrepresenting the length and content of those meetings can be viewed as a type of cheating since that information is used towards the paper grade. **Misrepresenting the forum is included in this, that is, describing a chat session as a face-to-face meeting**, for example. This class has expanded enrollment to meet student needs and uses techniques such as the above to enhance dialogue, a critical element of this class.

Tolerance in the classroom

Discussions in this class frequently take up issues of national identity, religious views, chauvinist social practices, sexual mores, and cherished views of love. I speak frankly in the belief that we need to be clear about what we discuss. Please speak with me if you feel that your values seem unwelcome or unfairly challenged by me or other students. I am interested that you have a critical awareness your own beliefs, but I am even more

interested in creating a class environment where you feel you can express your opinion comfortably. I ask all students not to disparage explicitly or implicitly other students' ideas or the culture of any country. As for films, by the way, all movies scheduled to be screened are "R-rated" or less and do not include explicit scenes of sex or strong violence. **When working with your partner during the paper process, please do not ask him or her to read material or view films about which he or she feels uncomfortable.**

Plagiarism

I am very concerned about plagiarism. I watch for it and I penalize students who have plagiarized. I have failed students in the past for plagiarism. Please see my full statement on the MainPage side bar by clicking on the link "Plagiarism Policy".

Grade categories

General comments

- ◆ Students are always welcome to discuss with me concerns about grades.
- ◆ Some grades are reported to bSpace, though in some cases this report is several sessions after the grade is determined. I try to keep bSpace more or less up to date but it is NOT the official gradebook record. There is one exception to this: GENERAL EXTRA CREDIT POINTS are recorded on the bSpace gradebook, in their own category, as a count of events (big or small, the count number is always "1" – it is not meant to measure the size of extra credit work but just track that it has been recorded). Extra credit earned on assignments is calculated into the assignment grade. This is for other types of extra credit activity that aren't strongly related to a specific graded assignment or exam.
- ◆ Go to the course MainPage for test dates, an excel sheet for calculating one's grade, test review material and other information about test content. Only primary details are noted below.
- ◆ All grades in all categories are either originally in or converted to (curved) a 12-pt scale where A=12, A-minus = 11 and so on. (See the charts at the end of this document.) This is also the way grades are communicated. To tell a student that they made a 12 on an assignment is to say that they received an "A". Test grades receive, initially, a percent score but this is curved and given a letter grade. The final grade is in nearly every case a mathematical average of the letter grades in all categories but I reserve the right to adjust this to the benefit of the student when it seems the grade is not a fair representation for some reason. I will not adjust the course average downwards.

Quizzes

From time to time there will be short, unannounced quizzes at the beginning of class to see if the student did the assigned reading while keeping in mind the themes of the class, or whether basic details about the previous session's film screening have been retained. These are not graded on a quiz-by-quiz basis but rather collectively in two units: all quizzes having to do with course content before the second half of the course's film screening begins and all quizzes after those screenings begin. The average of these two units becomes the quiz category score.

"Collectively" means that, for example, there were 5 quizzes and while each quiz might have had a different number of questions, the total number of questions for the 5 quizzes is 20. A student who has missed just one question, would have a score of 19 for 20, 95%. That would definitely be an "A". For a sense of how I convert percentage scores to letter grades, see the chart at the end of the document. I can add here, though, that the curve for the quiz category will almost certainly be more forgiving than the standard percentages given the variables involved.

Observations (lists and mini-essays)

Several times during the term the student will be asked to submit in writing observations or short comments about the assigned reading or film. Unlike the quiz category, each of these submissions receives a letter grade. The primary function of the observations assignments is to help position the student well for the final paper process, so, while graded, their primary function is check & guidance. Each observations assignment is weighted equally and so it is the average of all these assignments, be there 2 or 10, that becomes the score for this category.

Mid-term

There will be one mid-term that explores the concepts presented in lecture and assigned readings for most of

the first half of the class. In order to align this test with the 8th-week midterm reports of the University, it is, unfortunately, necessary to have this test before the final premodern reading. This test is primarily essay-type, though there may be some multiple-choice questions on basic content. It is in-class and closed book.

Students are allowed to make up exams only due to very unusual circumstances. Please contact the instructor as soon as the student knows that he or she will miss an exam. Makeup exams are not the same exam as the one given on the date of the exam but there is no penalty for making up an exam. Thus the student either receives an “F” for a missed exam (unable to make it up) or is graded with full credit in mind when a test is made up.

Paper process

For the purpose of exploring one’s own views on romance and various East Asian cultures, the paper process is one where students are formed into pairs by me and work together during the second half of the term as a paper is jointly written.

This process has about six stages, some of which are simply meetings, some of which require submission to me. Some of these stages require direct dialogue with one’s partner to produce a joint written document, other stages require work “blind and silent” to the partner.

About four of these stages are graded.

Some grades are individually assigned while others are jointly shared. There is a procedure in place to resolve conflicts or to protect one’s grade should one’s partner become uncooperative for any reason.

While this class does not have a final, **students will definitely need to meet with their partner during finals week to complete the last stage of the paper process. This final meeting, in the past, has averaged taking about 2-3 hours to successfully complete. Please keep that in mind.**

How grade categories are weighted for the final course grade

Quizzes.....	15%
Observations	15%
Mid-term	25%
Paper process (weighted result of all components).....	45%

Accommodation for students with disabilities

If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability or if you want me to have emergency medical information, please speak to me after class or during office hours.

Conversion of percent grades to letter grades

Exams sometimes have a percent grade before being curved to a letter grade. The percent grade is never used on the excel sheet as part of the computation of a student’s grade. It is first converted to a 12-pt (letter) grade. The *general* guideline I use for that conversion is as below but tests are curved on a case-by-case basis:

percent to letter, cutoffs	
100	A+
93	A
89.5	A-
86.5	B+
83	B
79.5	B-
76.5	C+
73	C
69.5	C-
66.5	D+
63	D
60.5	D-
60	F

Equivalents of 12-pt grades to letter grades

When a 12-pt grade is reported on bSpace or appears on a graded exercise, the letter equivalent to that number is as below:

13 = A-plus
12 = A
11 = A-minus
10 = B-plus
9 = B
8 = B-minus
7 = C-plus
6 = C
5 = C-minus
4 = D-plus
3 = D
2 = D-minus
0 = F

Conversion of 12-pt grade course average to letter grades for the final course grade

At the end of the term, the 12-pt scores for each grade category are calculated together, according to weight, for the final grade. That mathematical result is then rounded to the nearest letter grade step. That is, an 11.5 is rounded up to 12 while an 11.49 is rounded down to 11, and so on. The student can calculate possible scenarios by using the excel sheet provided on the MainPage. Below are the cutoffs for each final course letter grade.

When given, highest 1 or 2 class averages	A+
11.5	A
10.5	A-
9.5	B+
8.5	B
7.5	B-
6.5	C+
5.5	C
4.5	C-
3.5	D+
2.5	D
1	D-
> 1	F