

Asian/Canadian Women Writers  
Term: Winter 2019

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to a variety of Asian/Canadian women writers from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Texts will address topics including immigrant and refugee experiences, state-sanctioned (such as internment and head tax) and ideological anti-Asian racism, intergenerational conflict, regionalism, Orientalism, pan-Asian strategic essentialism, multiraciality, islamophobia, and diasporic experiences. We will consider Anglophone and Francophone (in translation) Asian/Canadian writers in relation to their American counterparts, but will also disrupt notions of nationalism, including cultural nationalism. We will ponder whether a decolonial, anti-nationalist iteration of Asian/Canada is possible. We will think about how sex and sexuality, gender, and race come together in ways that shape Asian/Canadian women's writing within (and beyond) the white supremacist, settler colonial, cis-normative, heteropatriarchy of the state. We will analyze life writing, short and long fiction, poetry, and plays as well as non-literary texts throughout the term.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Kim Thuy. *Ru*, translated by Sheila Fischman, Vintage, 2012.  
Leung, Carriane. *That Time I Loved You*. Harper Collins, 2018.  
Shraya, Vivek. *I'm Afraid of Men*. Penguin, 2018.  
Wilson-Yang, Jia Qing. *Small Beauty*. Metonymy Press, 2016.  
Hernandez, Catherine. *The Femme Playlist*. Playwrights Canada, 2018.

\*\* Additional Readings are available through NEXUS in accordance with the University of Winnipeg's Fair Dealing Policy\*\*

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Short Paper (approx. 1000 words, due 25 Feb. 2019)	25%
Term Paper (2,000-2,500 words, due 3 Apr. 2019)	35%
Reading Journal (250 words x 10, due 3 Apr. 2019)	30%

## **GRADING SCALE**

A+	90 - 100%	GPA 4.50	C+	65 - 69%	GPA 2.5
A	85 - 89%	GPA 4.25	C	60 - 64%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 - 84%	GPA 4.0	D	50 - 59%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 - 79%	GPA 3.5	F	Below 50%	GPA 0
B	70 - 74%	GPA 3.0			

## **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Attendance and Participation–10%**

Students are expected to attend class regularly (and on time) with the required materials in hand and prepared to discuss the texts assigned for the day. Grades will reflect participation in class discussions as well as group work. Participation marks can be earned with quality contributions that illustrate that the student has read the assigned materials and is prepared to discuss them in class.

### **Short Essay–25%**

Students will write and submit a **1000**-word essay in response to an essay question distributed by week 3 of the course. Assignments may reference secondary sources from scholarly (i.e. peer-reviewed) sources, though this is not necessary. All referencing and formatting shall be in accordance with the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Modern Language Association Style Guide*. This short essay shall be submitted on **February 25, 2019**. Further instruction and grading criteria shall be provided in class.

### Term Essay–35%

Students will write and submit a **2,000-2,500** word comparative essay (analyzing at least two primary texts). A list of potential essay topics shall be distributed in class. Students are encouraged to use secondary materials from peer-reviewed sources. All referencing and formatting shall be in accordance with the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Modern Language Association Style Guide*. The term essay shall be submitted on **April 3, 2019**. Further instruction and grading criteria shall be provided in class.

### Reading Journal—30%

Throughout the term, students will write **ten (10)** journal entries in which they will critically engage with the assigned readings. This is more than a summary of what has been read. Each entry should be approximately **250 words** long and should address a different text, though students may choose the texts on which they will write. Students are invited to make connections between assigned texts and other materials and events, though this is not a requirement. The journals shall be submitted all together at the end of term on **April 3, 2019**.

### READING SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date	Reading(s)
January 7, 2019	Introduction
January 9, 2019	Mootoo, Shani. "Out on Main Street." <i>Out on Main Street</i> , Press Gang, 1993, pp. 45-57.
January 14, 2019	Lee, SKY. "Broken Teeth." <i>Bellydancer: Stories</i> , Press Gang, 1994, pp. 3-9.
January 16, 2019	Shauna Singh Baldwin. "Montreal 1962." <i>English Lessons and Other Stories</i> , Goose Lane, 1999, pp. 13-16.
January 21, 2019	Ruth Ozeki. "Ships in the Night." <i>Charlie Chan is Dead 2: At Home in the World</i> , edited by Jessica Hagedorn, Penguin, 2004, pp. 391-405.
January 23, 2019	Hiroshi Goto "Hopeful Monsters." <i>Hopeful Monsters: Stories</i> , Arsenal Pulp, 2004, pp. 135-68.
January 28, 2019	Kang, Helen H. "How to Make Pogee Kimchee, or Ingredients of One Korean-Canadian Woman." <i>HanKut: Critical Art and Writing by Korean Canadian Women</i> , Inanna, 2007, pp. 15-17.
January 30, 2019	Lai, Larissa. "Rachel." <i>Automaton Biographies: Poems</i> , Arsenal Pulp, 2009, pp. 9-41.
February 4, 2019	Kim Thuy. <i>Ru</i> , translated by Sheila Fischman, Vintage, 2012.
February 6, 2019	Kim Thuy. <i>Ru</i> , translated by Sheila Fischman, Vintage, 2012.
February 11, 2019	Kim Thuy. <i>Ru</i> , translated by Sheila Fischman, Vintage, 2012.
February 13, 2019	From Kim Fu <i>How Festive the Ambulance: Poems</i> . Nightwood, 2016. From Wee, Natalie. <i>Our Bodies and Other Fine Machines: Poems</i> . Worlds Dance, 2016.
<b>February 17-23: READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)</b>	
February 25, 2019	Wilson-Yang, Jia Qing. <i>Small Beauty</i> . Metonymy Press, 2016.
<b>SHORT ESSAY DUE</b>	
February 27, 2019	Wilson-Yang, Jia Qing. <i>Small Beauty</i> . Metonymy Press, 2016.
March 4, 2019	From Kai Cheng Thom. <i>A Place Called No Homeland: Poems</i> . Arsenal Pulp, 2017.
March 6, 2019	Liang, Bridget. "Delicate Bodies." <i>Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy from Transgender Writers</i> , edited by Cat Fitzpatrick, Topside Press, 2017.
March 11, 2019	Leung, Carrienne. <i>That Time I Loved You</i> . Harper Collins, 2018.
March 13, 2019	Leung, Carrienne. <i>That Time I Loved You</i> . Harper Collins, 2018.
March 18, 2019	Leung, Carrienne. <i>That Time I Loved You</i> . Harper Collins, 2018.
March 20, 2019	Hernandez, Catherine. <i>The Femme Playlist</i> . Playwrights Canada, 2018.
March 25, 2019	Hernandez, Catherine. <i>The Femme Playlist</i> . Playwrights Canada, 2018.
March 27, 2019	Shraya, Vivek. <i>I'm Afraid of Men</i> . Penguin, 2018.

April 1, 2019	Shraya, Vivek. <i>I'm Afraid of Men</i> . Penguin, 2018.
April 3, 2019	Shraya, Vivek. <i>I'm Afraid of Men</i> . Penguin, 2018.
	<b>Term Essay Due</b> <b>Reading Journals Due</b>