

CHT 4111 (x05HC) “Dream of the Red Chamber”

**Gen. Ed. Reqs. = International (N), and choice of Humanities (H) or Social Sciences (S);
Communication, 6 units. All readings in English.**

SPRING 2016, MAT 102, Tues. 8 & 9th period & Thurs. 9th period.

Contents

CHT 4111 explores the social and intellectual culture of traditional China through a 120-chapter novel known variously as *Dream of the Red Chamber* and *Story of the Stone*. Conceived and substantially completed by Cao Xueqin (c. 1724–1764), the novel reflects the author’s upbringing in an eminent family that enjoyed close ties with the Manchu rulers of the last dynasty, the Qing. The *Dream* is acclaimed as one of the most psychologically penetrating novels of world literature.

The story opens upon an otherworldly plane in which a karmic bond between its principal figures—the divine “Stone-in-Waiting” and the “Crimson Pearl Flower”—is established before they are born as cousins (Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu) into aristocratic households of the mortal world. An eccentric Buddhist monk and Daoist monk roam between the supernatural realm and the “red dust” of earthlings to assist these and other worthy persons to become aware of their original identities. For many generations of readers, the novel’s most absorbing theme is the romance between Baoyu and Daiyu. Their relationship’s unfolding intensity draws much of its poignancy, however, from the powerfully told chronicle of the Jia clan’s decline, and the cousins’ youthful resistance to the family’s oppressively patriarchal values.

The *Dream’s* scope includes characters from virtually every class and profession (maids-in-waiting, stewards, gardeners, cooks, nuns, actors, officials, members of the imperial family, gamblers, thieves, etc.). It represents practically all genres of literary performance in its pages and also abounds in descriptions of social practice and daily life—such as, of clothing and rules of etiquette, buildings, gardens, plays, parlor games, culinary delicacies, medical prescriptions, fortune telling, festivals, and liturgical rites. Paradoxically, it is the concrete experience of a richly materialistic world that grounds the novel’s dreamlike quality and the allegory that passion, thought, and life itself are all illusory.

Prerequisite One prior course in Chinese literature or culture, or by instructor’s permission.

Honor Code See *Division of Student Affairs*, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Students with disabilities See *Division of Student Affairs*, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc> to apply for special accommodation.

Required Materials

1. *Story of the Stone*, by Cao Xueqin. 5 paperback volumes in the “Penguin Paper Classics” edition, translation by David Hawkes and John Minford. The volumes in the Penguin edition have these subtitles: 1. *The Golden Days*. 2. *The Crab Flower Club*. 3. *The Warning Voice*. 4. *The Debt of Tears*. 5. *The Dreamer Awakes*.
2. Course pack: *Reader’s Guide to Dream of the Red Chamber*. Purchase at Target Copy & More, 1620 W University Avenue. After the midterm, reserve reading will be available at the library to explore topics for end-of-semester projects.

Grading A =90, A- =88, B+ =84, B =80, B- =78, C+ =74, C =70, C- =68, etc.

25% One test

25% Term paper (8-10 pages, excluding bibliography and notes; if using paper as EAC major’s exit rqt., it must be 10 pp.)

20% Pop quizzes (average of best 3 of 5; the quizzes run 5-10 minutes)

15% Three “reaction papers” (written analyses of selected chapters, 3 pp. each)

15% Class Participation and preparedness. You will be assigned questions to address in the upcoming reading. Absences: Three “free” absences are allowed. For each *subsequent* absence, 2 pts. will be deducted from the final grade average unless you can provide medical or other emergency documentation for all absences.

Instructor contact & office hours at Pugh 353: Dr. Cynthia L. Chennault, <cchenna@ufl.edu>, tel. 392-2014.

Spring ’15 office hours to be filled in during first week of class: _____

Assignments

The **reading assignment** during the first month averages 130 pages per week. Use this time to read carefully and take detailed notes on patterns, themes, and characters. During later weeks, the reading averages 200+ pages per week. If you fall behind, you will not be prepared to participate in, or even absorb the lectures and class discussions. Use your course pack for notes on the readings, and to review. Self-study checks (to be distributed in class) and the quizzes are also materials that will help you judge how well you understand, recall, and integrate the reading, prior to the test.

As part of the class participation grade, you will be assigned at least once to prepare a brief report for the day's reading, with questions for your classmates. Deadlines for **reaction papers** are marked by an **asterisk (*)** in the syllabus. Reaction papers should treat chapters not yet discussed in class, or they may bring out aspects of previous readings that were not discussed. You may submit *on any day* before the deadline for that r-paper but no later than the deadline.

Effort should focus during the semester's last 4 weeks on developing the **term paper**. Use my office hours for recommended topics and secondary criticism. The paper should be 8-10 pages in length (excluding endnotes and bibliography page) and refer to 2 to 4 books / articles about the *Dream*. Online sources are acceptable if these represent printed books or articles. You will be asked to describe your topic briefly to the class.

Syllabus

- Wk 1 JAN 5 Introduction to the course. RFNT (= "Read for Next Time") "Introduction," and ch. 1
- 7 Where does the story begin? Mythological frame, multiple levels of time and space. What is the advantage of first featuring minor characters? RFNT chs. 2-4 (58 pp.)
- Wk 2 12 Family & reputation; RFNT chs. 5-7 + appendix 528-34 (65 pp.)
- 14 Dreaming; worlds outside the Jia compound; love's transforming effect; rural connections; RFNT 8-12 (70 pp.)
- Wk 3 19 Doubled characters; lustful relations; "Five-Elements" theory. RFNT 13-15 (70 pp.)
- 21 Prophetic warnings; the filial son; BY's attraction to DY & to Aroma. RFNT 16-18 (73 pp.)
- Wk 4 26 Father & Son in the Garden; Cardinal Spring's visit; premonitions in riddles. RFNT 19-23 (92 pp.)
- *28 Status and jealousy; intimacies, sexuality; a false enlightenment; burying flowers in the garden. RFNT 24-28 (100 pp.) *Vol. 2 begins at ch. 27.*
- *Deadline, #1 written analysis of any theme, pattern, or character(s) to date (3 pp.)**
- Wk 5 FEB 2 Secret meetings; DY's depression; rivalry & witchcraft; Wang Xifeng's prowess. RFNT 29-32 (72 pp.)
- 4 BC & plans for BY's future; lovers' quarrels; gender issues; role of the maids; characters of BC & Xiang-yun (River Mist); the Double 5th, Golden's death; RFNT 33-39 (136 pp.)
- Wk 6 9 BY's beating by Jia Zheng. What insight into life has BY gained? Poetry club founded; errors and humiliations. RFNT 40-44 (106 pp.)
- 11 Grannie Liu's 2nd visit—role of the 'naïve' observer; Adamantina; the polite accomplishments; BC lectures on morals; BY visits Water-spirit Temple; XiF's birthday surprise & the long-suffering Patience. RFNT 45-50 (127 pp.)

- Wk 7 *16 Faithful stands up for herself; Xue P's beating & departure; Sir She as collector; DY as teacher; XY as a boy, androgyny; a fairyland snow scene; poems playful and serious RFNT 51-53 + appendices (82 pp.)
***Deadline, #2 written analysis of any theme, pattern, or character(s) to date (3 pp.)**
- 18 Riddles; illnesses; Skybright's two-fold exertion; New Year rituals and financial problems. RFNT 54-56 (92 pp.) *Volume 3 begins at ch. 54.*
- Wk 8 23 Grandmother Jia lectures on the art of fiction; Tan-chun takes authority; BY has a dream within a dream & an attack of dementia; breakdown in domestic order; criminal justice. RFNT 57-61 (95 pp.)
- 25 Roles of maids vis à vis mistresses. Domestic goods, status, and thievery; more trouble from Aunt Zhao; RFNT 62-69 (191 pp.)

SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY – Feb 27 to March 6

- Wk 9 MAR 8 Birthday celebrations & a revelatory card game; Jia Jing dies; You Er-jie & San-jie, a secret marriage; a broken heart causes Liu Xiang-lian's enlightenment; Xi-feng's scheming and destructiveness. RFNT 70-73 (67 pp.)
- 10 Poetry club's failed revival; the kite party. Grandmother's 80th Birthday; wheeling and dealing; inadequacies of character, discipline, and resources exposed; a pornographic purse. RFNT 74-80 (158 pp.) & review for TEST in Week 11. ***Begin investigating subjects for your term paper if you have not already done so.***
- Wk 10 15 Raid on servants; mid-Autumn omens of family's downfall; the outsiders DY and XY; an elegy for Skybright; rebel girls; BC leaves the garden; the false moon goddess Jin Gui arrives; two unfortunate marriages. Study for TEST through ch. 80.
- *17 **TEST.** RFNT 81-86 (108 pp.) *Volume 4 starts at ch. 81.*
- Wk 11 22 BY's renewed progress in his studies; DY's change toward BY, her nightmare & illness; Xue Pan leaves home; Xi-Feng's proposed match for BY; Jia Zheng's promotion; DY as moon goddess on her birthday; bribery at court on Xue Pan's behalf; autumn clothes; themes of nostalgia and purity; the lute (*qin*) and ideal communication. RFNT 87-91 (83 pp.)
- *24 An understanding between BC & DY; Adamantina's crisis; DY's false hope; rivals in illicit seduction; RFNT 92-96 (109 pp.)
***Deadline, #3 written analysis of any theme, pattern, or character(s) to date (3 pp.)
 You should submit this one electronically.**
- Wk 12 29 The mystery of BC's absences; the virtue of women; Jia Zheng's reflections; BY's double; more family scandal; crab flowers bloom out of season; BY loses his jade; DY learns the truth from a simple-minded maid. RFNT 97-99 (98 pp.) and the vol. 5 preface on pp. 14-17 (117 pp.) *Volume 5 begins at ch. 99.*
- *31 The false wedding; Jia Cheng's failure in local gov't; Tan-chun's marriage arranged. RFNT 100-106, ***Due date for prospectus term paper (1 page abstract + 2 to 4 references)**
- Wk 13 APR 5 Xi-feng puzzles over a divination; an exorcism of the garden; Zhen Shiyin & Jia Yucun meet again; Jin-gui pays for her malice; the imperial secret police raid the garden. RFNT 107-111 (83 pp.)
- 7 Imperial judgment; BC's birthday party; Grandmother Jia's rescue of the family; Yingchun's death; Grandmother's funeral & Xi-feng's collapse; Faithful follows her mistress. RFNT 112-117 (151 pp.) FNT: Three to six students will prepare brief descriptions of their term paper topics to present to the class.

- Wk 14 12 Adamantina's abduction; Grannie Liu's third visit & Xi-feng's death; recovery of the Zhen family; BY's enlightenment and attempt to return his jade. Presentation of term papers' topics by 3-6 students. RFNT 118-120 (59 pp.) FNT: Three to six students will prepare brief descriptions of their term paper topics to present to the class.
- 14 Xi-chun enters a convent; BY's triumph in the exam and a last meeting with Jia Zheng; intimations of the Jia family's recovery. Conclusions, musings. Presentation of term papers' topics by 3-6 students. FNT: Three to six students will prepare brief descriptions of their term paper topics to present to the class.
- Wk 15 19 Any undiscussed last chapters; presentations of remaining term paper topics.
(LAST DAY OF CLASS)

<No Final Exam>

***Monday, April 25, by 12:00 noon is the deadline for term papers. Submit electronically.**