

Western University Graduate Course in Comparative Literature, Spring 2018

**CL 9691B Sinography, Corpography and Beyond**

**Instructor:** Dr. Guoyuan Liu

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**Office Hours:** Friday 11:30-1:30 or by apt

**Class Time and Location:** Thursdays 9:30 am-12:30 pm / TBA

## Course Description

had three calligraphers write Chinese texts on his face. The texts consisted of Chinese terms and phrases representing names or stories that the artist was familiar with, and they were written in the fashion of traditional Chinese calligraphic art, with the Chinese writing brush and in black ink. The process started early in the morning and lasted until night. Thus as the day gradually became dark, so did recognizable.

is rich in metaphors that urge us to re-think our understanding of writing and the body: Does writing have a corporeality with spatiality and temporality? Can the body be reduced to a social construction with no

## **Schedule of Classes**

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Thu Jan 11 **Introduction: the leading questions**

Reading:

1. *The Body and Social Theory.*
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Thu Jan 18 **The body of Chinese writing**

Readings:

1. Hegel. Selections from *The Science of Logic*.
2. Derrida. Selections from *Of Grammatology*.
3. Borges. *El idioma analitico de John Wilkins*

Thu Feb 15 **Skinscape and bodily knowledge**

Readings:

2. Hardy. *Wear Your Dreams: My Life in Tattoos*.

**Short assignment due.**

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Thu Feb 22 **Spring Reading Week.**

No class meeting.

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Thu Mar 1 **Social inscription: more writings on the body**

Readings:

1. Foucault. Selections from *Discipline and Punish*.

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2. Nancy. Selections from *Corpus*.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ and

4. Barnes. \_\_\_\_\_ .

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Thu Mar 29 **The body that writes**

Readings:

1. Plato: *Ion*.

3. Lu. *kuangren riji* \_\_\_\_\_ ).

4. Barnes. \_\_\_\_\_ (cont).

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Thu Apr 5 **Embodiment and performance**

Readings:

1. Butler. Selections from *Gender Troubles*.

2. Braidotti. Selections from *Metamorphoses: Towards a Materialist Theory of Becoming*.

3. Lu. *Nu fuma (The Girl Who Marries a Princess)*.

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## **Required Readings**

I. Theory:

Rosi Braidotti. Selections from *Metamorphoses: Towards a Materialist Theory of Becoming*.

*Body Work: Objects of Desire in Modern.*

*Narrative*

Judith Butler. Selections from *Gender Troubles*.

Cathy Caruth. Selections from *Unclaimed Experience*.

Gilles Deleuze. Selections from *The Logic of Sense*.

Jacques Derrida. Selections from *Of Grammatology*.

Pasi Falk. Selections from *The Consuming Body*.

Michel Foucault. Selections from *Discipline and Punish*.

---. Selections from *Order of Things*.

G. W. F. Hegel. Selections from *Science of Logic*.

Jean-Luc Nancy. Selections from *Corpus*.

Plato. *Ion*.

Nicholas Rose. Selections from *The Politics of Life Itself*.

*The Body in Pain*.

*The Body and Social Theory*.

Bryan S. Turner. Selections from *The Body & Society : Explorations in Social Theory*.

## II. Fiction:

### A. Novels:

Julian Barnes. .

Dai Sijie. *Balzac et la Petite Tailleuse chinoise (Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress)*.

Takagi Akimitsu. *Shisei satsujin jiken (The Tattoo Murder Case)*.

### B. Short stories:

Peter Carey.

Franz Kafka. *Ein Hungerkünstler* ( ).

Lu Xun. *kuangren riji* ( )

Pu Songling. *Huapi* ( ) *Lupan* ( ).

Marguerite Yourcenar. *Comment Wang-Fô fut sauvé* ( -

## III. Nonfiction:

Ed Hardy: *Wear Your Dreams: My Life in Tattoos*.

Julia Kristeva: Selections from *De Chinoises (About Chinese Women)*.

Jorge Borges. *El idioma analitico de John Wilkins* ( ).

IV. Plays:

Lu Hongfei. *Nu fuma (The Girl Who Marries a Princess)*.

Tang Xianzu. Selected scenes from *Mudan ting (The Peony Pavilion)*.

VI. Films:

Peter Greenaway, dir. *The Pillow Book*.

Fruit Chan, dir. *Hollywood Hong Kong*.

Ye Ying, dir. *Red Cherry*.

VII. Other:

Poetry, art work, etc. to be shown in class.