



ENGL 107  
Section E  
MW  
10:50 AM-  
12:05 PM  
Seminary Hall  
109  
Spring 2015  
Drew University  
Dr. Edmond Y.  
Chang



"Science fiction is very well suited to asking philosophical questions; questions about the nature of reality, what it means to be human, how do we know the things that we think we know."  
—Ted Chiang

"I was attracted to science fiction because it was so wide open. I was able to do anything and there were no walls to hem you in and there was no human condition that you were stopped from examining."  
—Octavia Butler

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to "study of the writers in the Asian American literary tradition...in light of their historical time and place, major themes, conclusions about the nature of Asian experience in the United States and their contributions to this literary tradition and to the American literary canon?" And even more difficult, how might we consider the fields, formations, and possibilities of "Asian American Literature" through science fiction or speculative fiction? Betsy Huang argues in *Contesting Genres in Contemporary Asian American Literature* that "science fiction affords Asian American writers a unique way to engage in subversive political and ideological critique not by contravening genre conventions, but by using them to rewrite the rules of the genre." This class, then, will explore the intersections of literature, genre, media, popular culture, race, gender, sexuality, class, bodies, and technology. Texts may include *Flash Gordon*, Sax Rohmer, Robert Heinlein, Toshio Mori, *Star Trek*, *The Green Hornet*, Laurence Yep, S.P. Somtow, Amy Tan, Ted Chiang, Larissa Lai, Greg Pak, Alice Sola Kim, Yoon Ha Lee, Ken Liu, and others.

A REQUIREMENT for this class is a well-developed curiosity about the world, about the culture we live in, and about the cultural productions we imagine, produce, and consume. In other words, this class is about reading, critiquing, and analyzing our culture through literature. Our understandings of identities, meanings, and power, as well as the intersections of cultural and social locations like race, gender, class, nation, and sexuality, can be excavated through the analysis of the texts we create and consume. This class will spend the semester reading, thinking, writing about various fictions and how and what these texts argue, reveal, narrate, hide, perpetuate, and complicate the world we live in.

FINALLY, as a class, we will engage the techniques and practices of reading and enjoying literature. We will identify and develop different ways to read different kinds of texts—from fiction to scholarship to visual and digital—and understand and develop strategies, habits, and perspectives of reading, thinking, and writing. Foremost, we will read with pleasure and for pleasure. We will also rhetorically read, close read, read for analysis. And lastly, we will read and deploy literature as theory, as dramatizing the concerns, wonders, struggles, and politics of lived life and experience.

SPECIFICALLY, our course goals include:

- **Close Reading:** we will employ a range of close reading skills and strategies to engage with literary and media texts.
- **Historicizing:** we will place texts in their historical period and articulate continuities and differences with texts/periods which precede and follow it.
- **Breadth:** we will read widely, engaging with texts from different chronological periods, geographical areas, genres, & literary traditions.

"First sentences are doors to worlds."  
—Ursula K. Le Guin

"Could the stories that parents tell children to lull them to sleep actually be true?"  
—Ken Liu



#### Required Course Texts & Materials

- ENGL 107 Course Reader (available in Sitterly 108).
- Rohmer, Sax. *The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu*.
- Mori, Toshio. *Yokohama, California*.
- Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*.
- Tan, Amy. *The Hundred Secret Senses*.
- Lai, Larissa. *Salt Fish Girl*.
- Yang, Gene Luen & Sonny Liew. *The Shadow Hero*.
- Web access and an active Drew email account.



- **Integration:** we will integrate the above skills and deploy them simultaneously in our work.

### Course Requirements

- Response Papers (50%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Critical Review (10%)
- Class Participation (30%)

“Politicians should read science fiction, not westerns and detective stories.”  
—Isaac Asimov

“I am a writer. And by that definition, I am someone who has always loved language. I am fascinated by language in daily life. I spend a great deal of my time thinking about the power of language—the way it can evoke an emotion, a visual image, a complex idea, or a simple truth. Language is the tool of my trade. And I use them all—all the Englishes I grew up with.”  
—Amy Tan

“The future is already here — it's just not very evenly distributed.”  
—William Gibson

### Requirements & Grading

Your grade should not be the sole exigence or motivation for this class. It is the hope of the course that you walk away from English 107 with something more. Find some pleasure and some edification and some knowledge from this class (or any class really) and success is usually not far behind. With that in mind, your grade will be a reflection of engagement, effort, close reading, critical thinking, writing, and participation.

#### Critical Response Papers (50%)

The majority of the writing you will do for this class is in the form of short, critical, analytical response papers. These single-spaced, one-page writings serve as reactions to, close readings of, analyses of, and articulations of the texts and connections you see, read, and talk about in class. These responses are more than just summaries or personal reactions and will be graded on clarity, focus, coherence, critique, and your ability to concisely formulate arguments. You will be required to generate a response paper approximately every other week for a total of 6. See the response paper prompt for more details.

#### Critical Context & Question Presentation (10%)

You will be a required to sign up for an oral presentation individually or in small groups. For your presentation, you will read the texts assigned for a particular week, research a topic relevant to the texts, generate a critical question, and get class discussion started for the day. You will be required to create a single-spaced, 1-page handout copied for the whole class. Topics (usually biographical, historical, or theoretical context) will be assigned to you or your group. Presentations are 5-7 minutes and may include media.

#### Critical Review (10%)

You will be required to write a short, 500-750 word, single-spaced critical review of a text not covered by the course that you believe fits the critical, theoretical, and intellectual stakes of this class. You will locate a text, close read the text, and generate an academic critique and assessment of the text's value for study. In other words, what text might you include in a class like ours? You **must** have your text **approved** by the instructor. The critical review will be turned in and published on the course blog and is due by the last day of instruction.

#### Participation and Preparedness (30%)

Preparedness and participation forms a large component of your final grade. It is essential that you prepare for class, attend class, and participate. Missing class may seriously compromise your ability to do well in this class. Moreover, negative participation will hurt your participation grade. Participation is determined by 1) your **respectful** presence in class and interactions with me and others, 2) your **willingness** to discuss, comment, and ask questions, 3) your **preparation** for class, which includes bringing required materials to class and doing all of the assigned reading for class, 4) your **engagement** in group work, and 5) your care and use of the class *moodle*—henceforth called the “class blog”—bookmark the address, check and comment regularly, think of the blog as an extension of class: <https://moodle.drew.edu/2/course/view.php?id=4111> Finally, failure to turn in homework, incomplete assignments, or late papers will negatively impact your participation grade.



“You can learn to change the world or go on being changed by it.”  
—Laurence Yep

“Cultural icons help people define who they are today because they shaped who they were as children.”  
—George Takei

“I learned to make my mind large, as the universe is large, so that there is room for paradoxes.”  
—Maxine Hong Kingston

## Attendance

**Attendance is required.** If you are absent, you miss the explanation of an assignment, the discussion of a reading, the chance to participate, and overall, the class as a community of learning. Also, you are expected to be in class on time. Class will start immediately at the appointed time. In the first minutes of class I may make important announcements, establish the agenda for the day, begin immediately with an important lesson, or field questions. If you come in after we start class, even by only a few minutes, you are late and will be marked as such. Chronic or conspicuous attendance problems will negatively affect your overall participation grade for the class. **Moreover, absences for more than 12 class sessions (50% of class time) will result in a failing grade regardless of reason.** If you know you are going to or must miss class, please let me know (via email) as soon as possible and make any necessary arrangements. When you do miss class, always find another student to get class notes or see me during office hours in order to make up missed work in a timely manner. You are always responsible for all material covered during your absence.



## Response Paper Formatting

1) 1" margins top, bottom, left, and right on each page.

2) Single-spaced block header with your name, date, course, my name.  
For example:

Student Name  
ENGL 107  
January 26, 2015  
Chang

3) Response (week number and title (e.g. Week #2: Race in *The Great Gatsby*).

4) Response papers are single-spaced and can be in block paragraph format.

5) Standard Times Roman Font, 12 point only.

6) Correct MLA citation and bibliographic format. Bibliography if necessary.

## Assignment Format

All papers must be typed or produced on a word processor. All documents should be saved in Microsoft Word format; if you do not have access to Word, then save your documents in RTF or Rich Text Format.

All papers must follow the manuscript format outlined by the assignment. **All papers must use MLA citation and documentation conventions.** All papers must be neatly printed (in black), stapled in the top, left-hand corner if necessary, and should not be three-hole punched. Papers that do not follow these format guidelines will not be accepted. They will be returned unread to you. Papers will be regarded as late until they are resubmitted in the proper format. Response Papers and the Critical Review have different manuscript guidelines detailed by their assignment prompts.

**Always make a backup copy of every paper you turn in,** lest you be one of the unhappy people whose paper is eaten by the computer. You may even want to take the precaution of e-mailing your paper to yourself as an attachment at least a couple of times during the drafting process and certainly BEFORE you exit the document for the last time and leave the computer. This way, even if you lose your flash drive or your paper gets mysteriously erased, you still have a copy in your e-mail files.

## Evaluation Rubric

Over the course of the semester, your assignments will receive feedback and comments that will identify what you are doing well and what still needs improvement. Your grades assess your fulfillment of the assignment, the quality of work, detail, analysis, and argumentation, overall effort, and finally, style, polish, and risk taking. Consider the following evaluation rubric as signposts or a kind of legend to your progress and evaluation:

- **Outstanding (A/A+):** Offers a very highly proficient, even memorable demonstration of the trait(s) associated with the course or assignment goal(s), including some appropriate risk-taking and/or creativity.
- **Strong (B+/A-):** Offers a proficient demonstration of the trait(s) associated with the course or assignment goal(s), which could be further enhanced with revision, additional support, and creativity.
- **Good (B-/B):** Effectively demonstrates the trait(s) associated with the course or assignment goal(s), but less proficiently; could use revision to demonstrate more skillful and nuanced command of trait(s).



## Late Assignments

All assignments must be done completely and turned in on time. Late assignments will be penalized half a grade for every day that they are late. So, if your essay is late by one day and you received a B- for your work, then your final grade would be a C+. Moreover, I will not comment on late work. However, you still need to complete late work or you will receive a zero. If you miss class on the due date of a paper, you must notify me and make arrangements to get the paper to me as soon as possible. **Unless previously arranged, I DO NOT accept assignments via email.** Remember that a paper has not been officially handed in until it is in my hands. Never turning anything in late is always the best policy.



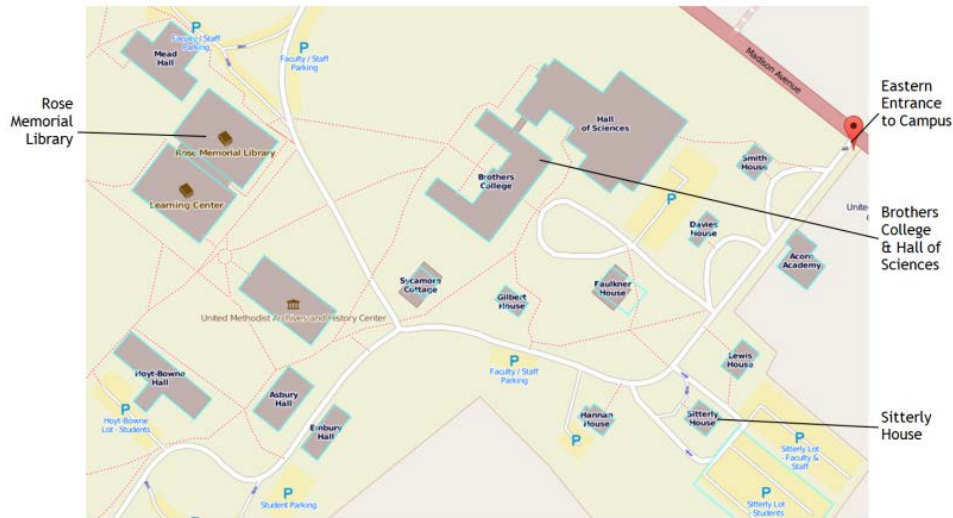
- **Acceptable (C/C+):** Minimally meets the basic course or assignment requirement, but the demonstrated trait(s) are not fully realized or well-controlled and would benefit from significant revision.
- **Inadequate (D/D+):** Does not meet the course or assignment requirement; the trait(s) are not adequately demonstrated and require substantial revision on multiple levels.

## Finding Help

Contact Ed

Office:  
Sitterly 303  
Office Hours:  
TuTh 2-4 PM or by  
appointment  
E-mail:  
[echang@drew.edu](mailto:echang@drew.edu)  
AIM or Google Talk:  
EDagogy

My office and office hours are listed in the left sidebar. I am available during that time and by appointment to help you. I encourage you to come see me early in the semester even if it is just to talk about the class, about the assignments, or about school in general. I may ask you to meet with me when I think a conference would be useful. My office is located on the third floor of Sitterly House (southeast of Brothers College), Room 303. See <<http://www.drew.edu/map/buildings/sitterly-house/>>.



"If you think a thing is impossible, you'll only make it impossible."  
—Bruce Lee



"I don't believe complete assimilation is possible, at least not for anyone who has an active, open mind. Every step, every entry into the flows of existence can be seen as a beginning, a commencement of a brand new way of seeing oneself in the world. This is the case for everyone."  
—Chang-Rae Lee

I am also available electronically by email and the course blog. Email and the blog are the best means of contacting me. I will do my best to answer your emails and blog posts, usually **within twenty-four hours**. If there is an emergency and you need to reach me, please contact the main English office in Sitterly 108. Furthermore, when time permits, I will supplement my office hours with virtual hours via AOL Instant Messenger or Google Talk (**nickname: EDagogy**); if I am logged in, during reasonable hours, you are more than welcome to discuss the class or ask questions. Please, when you initiate an IM conversation for the first time, please identify yourself to me; also, be **patient** because my responses may not be immediate.

You can find additional writing help at the Drew University Center for Writing Excellence, a good resource for this class and other classes. The CWE is located on the first floor of the library in the Vivian A. Bull Academic Commons and offers a variety of services including help with papers, brainstorming ideas, help with reading, and research. See <<http://www.drew.edu/writingstudies/writing-center>> to make an appointment and for more information.

Further resources, both on- and off-campus can be found on the Links page of the course website: <<http://www.edmondchang/courses/107/links.html>>.

## Learning (With) Technology

Unless you have an official accommodation, the use of technology in our classroom is a privilege, not a right. Mobile devices like phones, media players,

"To me, the American Dream is being able to follow your own personal calling. To be able to do what you want to do is incredible freedom."  
—Maya Lin

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”  
—Albert Einstein



“If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities.”  
—Maya Angelou

and cameras should be off and put away. Computers and tablets should be used for note-taking, in-class work, and readings only. Print is generally preferred for course texts and readings, but full-size e-versions are acceptable provided the student is able to readily highlight, annotate, and index. Finally, be conscientious and respectful in the use of the course website and social media and post no material from class to the internet or non-class sites without explicit permission from the instructor and the class. Keep in mind these three rules: 1) Use the Right Tool for the situation and the task—keep it simple and elegant, 2) Practice Best Practices—it must improve or enhance your learning, 3) Be a Good Neighbor—it cannot distract or detract from others’ learning. Inappropriate use and abuse of technology in class will result in the taking away of technology privileges for the offending student and/or class as a whole.

## Academic Integrity

All students are required to uphold the highest academic standards. Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else’s ideas or writing as your own. In your writing for this class, you are encouraged to refer to other people’s thoughts and writing—as long as you cite them. Many students do not have a clear understanding of what constitutes plagiarism, so feel free to ask questions at any time. For our class, plagiarism includes:

- a student failing to cite sources of ideas
- a student failing to cite sources of paraphrased material
- a student failing to site sources of specific language and/or passages
- a student submitting someone else’s work as his or her own
- a student submitting his or her own work produced for another class

If you have any doubt about how to cite or acknowledge another’s writing, please talk to me. It is always better to be safe than sorry. Any case of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in Drew University’s “Standards of Academic Integrity: Guidelines and Procedures.” A copy of this document can be accessed on the CLA Dean’s U-KNOW space by clicking on “Academic Integrity Standards.” **Play it smart, don’t plagiarize!**

## Accommodations

Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services (BC 119, extension 3962). It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services: <http://www.drew.edu/academicservices/disabilityservices/register> and to provide faculty with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations.

**syl-la-bus: *n* 1: a summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements  
2: subject to change**

Chang / ENGL 107 E / Spring 2015 / Drew University

### Week 1: January 26-30

Introduction to the Course & Syllabus

Defining Asian American Literature and Science Fiction

Vandana Singh, “Occasional Writer: An Interview with Science Fiction

Author Ted Chiang”

Dionne Obeso, “Science Fiction & Fantasy 2014: How Multicultural Is Your Multiverse?”

Betsy Huang, “Reorientations: On Asian American Science Fiction”

Week 1 or 2 Critical Response (CR) is recommended.

Mon 1/26  
First Day of Classes



Week 2: February 2-6

"Yellow Peril," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow\\_Peril](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_Peril)

Jack London, "The Unparalleled Invasion" (1910)

<http://london.sonoma.edu/writings/StrengthStrong/invasion.html>

Sax Rohmer, *The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu* (1912)

Week 3: February 9-13

*Flash Gordon*

Robert Heinlein, *The Sixth Column* (1941, excerpt)

Week 4: February 16-20

Toshio Mori, *Yokohama, California* (1949)

Week 5 or 6 CR is recommended.

Week 5: February 23-27

*Star Trek*, "Errand of Mercy" (1967)

*The Green Hornet*, "The Silent Gun" (1966)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGlb1eHTeUU>

"Give 'Em Enough Rope" (1966)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2pZ\\_paG2k0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2pZ_paG2k0)

Week 6: March 2-6

Laurence Yep, *Dragonwings* (1975)

3/9-3/13  
Spring Break

Week 7: March 9-13 (Spring Break)

*Blade Runner* (1982)

Week 8: March 16-20

S.P. Somtow, "The Thirteenth Utopia" (1979)

Amy Tan, *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995)

Week 9: March 23-27

Amy Tan, *The Hundred Secret Senses* (cont.)

Week 10: March 30-April 3

Ted Chiang, "Liking What You See: A Documentary" (2002)

Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (2002)

Week 10 or 11 CR is recommended.

Week 11: April 6-10

Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (cont.)

Week 12: April 13-17

*Robot Stories* (2003)

Week 13: April 20-24

Larissa Lai, "Rachel" (2009)

Alice Sola Kim, "Beautiful White Bodies" (2009)

<http://www.strangehorizons.com/2009/20091207/bodies-f.shtml>

Yoon Ha Lee, "Ghostweight" (2011)

[http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/lee\\_01\\_11/](http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/lee_01_11/)

Ken Liu, "The Paper Menagerie" (2012) <http://io9.com/5958919/read-ken-liu-amazing-story-that-swept-the-hugo-nebula-and-world-fantasy-awards>

Week 14: April 27-May 1

Avatar: The Legend of Korra, "Welcome to Republic City" (2012)

Gene Luen Yang & Sonny Liew, *The Shadow Hero* (2014)

5/7 Critical Review Due

Week 15: May 4-8

Last Day of Instruction 5/4

Reading Days 5/5-5/6

Final Exams Begin 5/7

## FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

