WL 201
B-HUM
East/West Encounters: Four Perspectives  FALL 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Shuyu Kong  OFFICE HOURS: 
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PHONE: 778-782-9595  CLASS HOURS: F 2:30-5:20 pm
PREREQUISITES: Three units in World Literature or three units of B-Hum designated courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
What happens when East and West encounter each other? A cultural clash, a moral challenge, an identity crisis or a power struggle? Can this encounter be also a moment of artistic inspiration, a venue for alternative imagination, germination of human empathy or the beginning of cultural dialectics?

In this course, we will investigate the artistic and creative possibilities that East West encounters can open up, and the power of storytelling in inspiring cross-cultural understanding and communication. We will look at four cases focusing on China and the West: Ezra Pound's reinvention of Chinese poetry in early 20th century, Ang Lee's cinematic fusion of Eastern and Western forms and philosophies, and fictional and non-fiction accounts by Chinese and American woman writers of their respective adventures in foreign lands. Studying these examples provides opportunities for rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism through concrete moments of human experience and exploring the world in its complexity beyond simple binary opposition.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)
Ang Lee, Wedding Banquet
......., Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon

ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION
Attendance 15%
Presentation 15%
Unit tests (4) 40%
Final paper/project 30%