

History 355: History of Modern China
Dr. Jonathan Skaff

Paper Assignment 2

Due: Friday, October 29

- Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in .doc, .docx, or .rtf file format

Length: 4 to 8 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Topic:

Write an essay that compares and contrasts the viewpoints of Zhang Daye, author of the memoir *World of a Tiny Insect* completed in 1894, and Pa Chin [Ba Jin], author of the autobiographical novel *Family* published only thirty-seven years later in 1931. The comparisons should focus on the social and political problems that each author believed was the most pressing at the time of writing. Based on the comparisons, develop a thesis arguing for the key *historical* developments between the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that can explain the similarities and/or differences in their opinions about social and political problems. The *historical thesis* should be based on evidence drawn from the memoir and novel—including the translators' introductions, class lectures and discussions, electronic reserves readings, and *The Search for Modern China*.

Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS TO THEM. Cite all sources in proper Chicago A or B format. Non-history majors may use MLA.

Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that develop a clear thesis that is defended with persuasive evidence drawn from the memoir, novel, other assigned readings, discussions and lectures.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and citations and bibliography (4%).

Grading sheet (attach to paper)

I. Content (80%)

Understanding of *World of a Tiny Insect*: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Understanding of *Family*: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Comparisons of viewpoints of authors: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Defense of thesis with evidence: ___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower _____

II. Writing mechanics (20%)

A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%) _____

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%) _____

Organization (4%) _____

Readability (4%) _____

Citations and bibliography in Chicago A, B or MLA (4%) _____

Total _____

Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper

- agr wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)
- awk awkward sentence
- cit citation needed
- frag sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)
- org organization problems
- redun redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)
- rep repetitious use of the same word
- run-on run-on sentence
- sp wrong spelling
- trans poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)
- tn wrong verb tense
- unc unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph
- wf wrong grammatical form of word
- ww wrong word usage
- ¶ new paragraph needed