Professor Sophia Mao

Speculative Asias

Final Creative Project / Un-essay (15 points)
DUE: Monday, 12/07 uploaded to Moodle by 5:00PM

For your final project, you will show me what you learned this term in any medium but a typical English paper. While the format of your project is completely up to you (photography, art, poetry, a map, a zine, an interview, etc.) **it needs to engage with at least one Speculative Asian text of your choosing (whether on or beyond our syllabus) and be *compelling and effective* in how it conveys our course themes.** You will ultimately be assessed on how robustly you engage with the ideas and questions covered in our course. If you have any questions or doubt about what your final project will look like, you are more than welcome to make an office hours appointment to discuss your ideas with me.

Some Speculative Asian texts to consider beyond our syllabus (not exhaustive):

- Elaine Hsieh Chou, *Where Are You Really From: Stories* (2025)
- Liu Cixin, *Remembrance of Earth's Past* trilogy; also an ongoing Netflix series (2008-2010)
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *Klara and the Sun* (2021)
- Rachel Khong, *My Dear You* (2026)
- R.F. Kuang, *Poppy War* trilogy (2018-2020)
- Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (2002)
- Chang-rae Lee, *On Such a Full Sea* (2014)
- Ken Liu, *The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories* (2016)
- David Mitchell, *Cloud Atlas*, "An Orison of Sonmi-451" (Part 1 & 2); also a film (2004)
- Charles Yu, *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* (2010)
- *Big Hero Six* (2014) [film]
- *Ex Machina* (2014) [film]
- *Ghost in the Shell* (2017) [film]