What: A 3-full-page double-spaced typewritten essay using Microsoft Word (16-point font). Leave 1-inch margins on all sides. Do not try to fill up the pages with extra space between paragraphs. What weighs more is the content. Learn to input Chinese characters if you do not already know how.

Due: By 5pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. You may also send your essay to me as an attachment via email by 5pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2005.

Topic: We will read four modern Chinese writers' works (excerpts) this semester. The texts show us various aspects of life in China from the late 1910s to the early 1940s. Choose a topic that interests you the most. Draw specific examples from at least three writers. The following categories are just for the purpose of helping you with brainstorming. If you would like to talk with me about it, you can come to my office hours: MW3:10-4:40, and by appointment.

- the urban and the rural
- the 1920s, the 1930s, and the 1940s
- men and women
- the left-wing and the right-wing
- the traditional and the modern
- the rich and the poor

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Citation form: You only need to provide the page number(s) immediately after each direct quotation. Note: This is not a research paper. Used properly, the readings, lectures, and films will provide you with all the information you will need.

Grading (10% of class grade):

Content / validity of argument: 5 points
Degree of sophistication of the language: 3 points
Over-all structure: 2 points