*Path of the Warrior: The Woman Warrior*

Post-Colonial Voices

LASA Senior English

Through allegory and motif, Maxine Hong-Kingston demonstrates her struggles with assimilation and identity growing up Chinese-American in the mid-20th century.

**Reading Schedule and Notes/Discussions:**

T/W, March 3/4: Read “No Name Woman” and “White Tigers” reading notes due (pp. 3-53)

W/Th, March 11/12: Read “Shaman” no notes this week (pp. 54-109)

T/W, March 24/25: Read “At the Western Palace” reading notes due (pp.110-160)

M/T, March 30/31: Read “Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe” reading notes due (pp. 161-209)

**On notes weeks (1, 3, and 4), be prepared for discussion groups by taking notes ahead of time on one or more of the following motifs/symbols and one (or more) type of irony in the assigned section. Label each entry (at least 6 entries per due date) with type of motif, page number and include quote and brief observation. You must type and print notes BEFORE class, at least one full page (single-spaced) per due date. Quizzes may occur every week.**

**Motif:** Pick one or more motifs (often symbolic) to trace throughout the section, bookmarking places where it occurs. Some possible motifs are: a)voice, b)ghosts, c)birds, d)other animals (dragons, tigers, etc.). e)blood, f)colors (red, white, etc.). Explain how motif(s) develop a character, tone or theme. For example, how does the symbol of “ghosts” reveal something about Maxine as a child? How do ghosts relate to a larger theme in the book, i.e. belonging, negation, or rejection? How does each example of a ghost differ in meaning?

**Themes**: (You’ll notice some overlap with motifs.) a) storytelling b) memory c) girls/“feminine” d) power e) duty f) transformation

**Irony:** Also, keep your eyes open for irony. Look for examples of **verbal irony** (when people say the opposite of what they mean; sarcasm), **dramatic irony** (when you are privy to something to which a character is oblivious, i.e. when Maxine as a child is oblivious), or **situational irony** (when the opposite of what one would expect to occur actually happens, i.e. differing cultural expectations). Consider how irony affects mood, characterization, and/or themes.

**Your grade each week (except week 2) will be based on your notes, your participation in discussion groups, and reading quizzes.**