

Asian 204 Summer 2010

Homework 03: Reading a scholarly article

For your third homework assignment, write out responses to the following questions on Kirk Denton's article "Model Drama as Myth: A Semiotic Analysis of *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy*." The aim of this assignment is, as usual, twofold: first, to gain information and insights from this particular article, and second, to review general skills for reading an article of this type. Email your responses to the instructor (jcsong@u.washington.edu) before the beginning of class on Friday 7/9.

1. Complete a basic outline of the article by indicating the topic of each of the following sections. The first one is filled in as an example:

- I. (p. 119 paragraphs 1-2): Introduction. The importance of "revolutionary model dramas" in the Cultural Revolution; *Taking Tiger Mountain* as an example.
- II. (p. 119 par. 3 through p. 120): _____
- III. (p. 121 through top of p. 122): _____
- IV. (p. 122): _____
- V. (p. 123 par. 1-2): _____
- VI. (p. 123 par. 3 through p. 130 par. 2): _____
- VII. (p. 130 par. 3 through top of p. 133): _____
- VIII. (p. 133 par. 1 through end): _____

2. Find a "thesis statement" that summarizes the point of the article. Copy it out, and give the page number on which you found it.

3. What does Denton mean by "ideology"? Does he explain the meaning of the term within the article? If so, quote his explanation and give the page number. If not, what do you understand the term to mean, and what is the basis for your understanding?

4. What does Denton mean by "semiotic"? Does he explain the meaning of the term within the article? If so, quote his explanation and give the page number. If not, what do you understand the term to mean, and what is the basis for your understanding?

5. "An ideology requires myth... to transform 'history into nature'" (p. 133). Explain in your own words what you understand Denton to mean by this statement.

6. What did you find most useful or interesting about this article? What did you find least useful or least clear?