



ANNOUNCING AN ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP FOR NCTA ALUMNI WITHIN THE PITTSBURGH REGION: (DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA AND WEST VIRGINIA)

This winter/spring the NCTA book discussion group will read and discuss **THE FAT YEARS** by Chan Koonchung. This book “is a unique combination of a mystery novel with a realistic expose of the political, economic, and social system of China as it is today...” (Translator’s note). The advantage of such a study lies with our ability to sample how a native Chinese writer (living in the PRC) views China’s contemporary world with, of course, a translator serving as intermediary.

THE FAT YEARS’ copyright is 2009 while the translation copyright is 2011. Chan’s fictional story occurs in 2013. Canada’s *Globe and Mail* describes THE FAT YEARS as “possibly the most audacious book to have been published by a Chinese author not living in exile” since Lu Xun’s early twentieth century writing. So this will be quite a different read for us and one which is considered by many to be science fiction.

For Pennsylvania teachers completion of this book discussion will be worth fourteen hours of Act 48 credit. For teachers in other states I can provide you with a certificate of completion.

The book discussion will run according to the following schedule:

1. Teachers wishing to participate should send the registration form (below) **February 1, 2016** to Patrick Hughes at hughespw@pitt.edu or by fax at 412-624-4665
2. We will send you a copy of the book along with some focus questions. When the discussion concludes, the book will be yours to keep.

3. The following is a **draft schedule** for the reading and online asynchronous discussion. Exact dates will depend on the time it takes to order the books and send them to you. But this will give you an idea. Each teacher is expected to post a response at the conclusion of a reading section. These postings may relate to the questions posed, may be reactions to the comments of other teachers, or pose questions about the material in the book.

Part One pp. 7-42	February 15, 2016
Part One pp. 43-123	February 29, 2016
Part Two. pp. 127-164	March 14, 2016
Part Two pp. 164-195	March 28, 2016
Part Three pp. 197-225	April 11, 2016
Part Three pp. 225-end plus the translator's note	April 25, 2016

**NCTA Alumni Online Book Discussion Group:
THE FAT YEARS**

Registration Due FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Return form to hughespw@pitt.edu or by fax to 412-624-4665

Name:

Preferred Email Address for use as part of the discussion group:

Mailing Address:

Preferred phone number:

Took NCTA Seminar with (leader and year completed):

School at which you teach (include City/State):

Subjects & grade level you teach:

PPID# for PA teachers: