

EAC 389

Readings in Traditional Chinese Travel Literature

Spring 2009

Course #8063

COURSE INTRODUCTION AND SYLLABUS

Meeting Time/Place:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45-1:05 PM, Humanities 111
Instructor:	Jim Hargett; Office: HUM 254C, 442-4233 E-mail: Jim_Hargett@yahoo.com
Office Hours:	Hargett: TUES & THUR, 10:15-11:15 AM (or by appointment)
Required Texts:	<i>Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing in Imperial China</i> , by Richard E. Strassberg (ISBN 0520085809). <i>Stairway to Heaven: A Journey to the Summit of Mount Emei</i> , by James M. Hargett (ISBN 978-0-79146682-7) Note: These required texts are only available at Mary Jane Books, 215 Western Avenue, 465-2238. They have <i>not</i> been ordered through the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on campus.

Course Description and Introduction: This course deals specifically with a genre of prose writing popular in traditional China that modern critics call "travel records" (*youji* 游記) or "travel record literature" (*youji wenxue* 游記文學). We will read and critically analyze travel writings from the early centuries of the CE until the nineteenth. Most of our readings will date from the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) periods, for it was during these dynasties that travel literature flourished in China for the first time. These works are valuable because they are based on first-hand observation and provide abundant material for understanding the attitudes of Chinese writers towards place, literature, art, history, society, politics, religion, folklore, and much more. All readings for the class are in English, and drawn mainly from Strassberg's *Inscribed Landscapes*.

Class Format: Readings are assigned for each class meeting. Students are expected to complete these readings before class. The reading assignments will be discussed in class, and students are expected to participate in these discussions.

Prerequisites: Students in the class are expected to have some general knowledge of East Asian geography, history, and culture.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by (1) your *individual* contributions to class discussions (20%); (2) your grades on the unannounced quizzes on the readings (10%); (3) your grade on the mid-term exam (20%); (4) your grade on the final exam (25%); and (5) your grade on the research paper (25%). **The Research Paper:** Each student in the class will prepare a research paper, at least **12 pages** in length (12 point type, double-spaced, one-inch margins all

around), not including the Bibliography, on a subject related to traditional Chinese travel literature. The topic of the research paper must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Attendance and Makeups: Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. If you are late and miss the roll call, you will be marked absent. **Two absences** are allowed. An additional class cut beyond the allotted two absences will result in a "plus"/"minus" reduction in the final grade. In other words, if you cut three classes and earn a "B" in the course, your final grade will be reduced to B-; four class cuts would get you a C+, and so on. Makeups for missed exams will be given only if the absence was due to a **documented** medical or personal emergency, which must be verified by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Academic Integrity: The discovery of any cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any kind) on an exam or written assignment will result in (1) immediate expulsion from the course with a failing grade; and (2) a report to appropriate SUNY officials. Appeals may be made through appropriate channels. Note: copying and submitting material(s) from the World Wide Web without citation is plagiarism!!!

How to do well in this course: (1) carefully read and prepare assignments *before* class; (2) attend class regularly and take detailed notes; (3) actively participate in classroom discussions (participation is essential in this class); and (4) always bring a copy of the day's reading assignment to class.

How to do poorly in this class: (1) miss lots of classes; (2) often arrive late for class; (3) never participate in class discussions; (4) wait until the last minute to start preparing the research paper.

No food: please do not bring any food or drinks to class (water in okay).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Abbreviations Used in the Class Schedule and Assignments:

Strassberg = *Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing in Imperial China*, by Richard E. Strassberg.

Hargett = *Stairway to Heaven: A Journey to the Summit of Mount Emei*, by James M. Hargett

Thur. 22 Jan: Introductory

Tues. 27 Jan: Read: *Strassberg*, 1-56 (Introduction, The Rise of Travel Writing).

Thur. 29 Jan: Read: *Strassberg*, 63-76.

Tues. 3 Feb: Read: *Strassberg*, 77-90; 97-102.

Thur. 5 Feb: Read: *Strassberg*, 115-119; 127-131; 133-149.

Tues. 10 Feb: Read: *Strassberg*, 161-167; 173-77; 183-194.

Thur. 12 Feb: Read: *Strassberg*, 205-212; *Hargett*, 1-19.

Tues. 17 Feb: No class (Winter Break/President's Day)

Thur. 19 Feb: No class (Winter Break/President's Day)

Tues. 24 Feb: Read: *Hargett*, 21-88.

Thur. 26 Feb: Read: *Hargett*, 89-135.

Tues. 3 Mar: Read: *Hargett*, 137-164.

Thur. 5 Mar: Read: *Hargett*, 165-198.

Tues. 10 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 303-312; **Research paper topic and description (one typed page) due today.**

Thur. 12 Mar: **Midterm examination.**

Tues. 17 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 317-334.

Thur. 19 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 335-351.

Tues. 24 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 353-360; 373-388.

Thur. 26 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 389-397; **Research paper bibliography due today.**

Tues. 31 Mar: Read: *Strassberg*, 403-412.

Thur. 2 Apr: Read: *Strassberg*, 413-422.

Tues. 7 Apr: Assignment to be announced.

Thur. 9 Apr: No class (Spring Break)

Tues. 14 Apr: **Research paper draft due today.**

Thur. 16 Apr: Research paper consultations with the instructor (format to be announced in class)

Tues. 21 Apr: Research paper consultations with the instructor (format to be announced in class)

Thur. 23 Apr: **Research paper due.** Please deliver your research paper to my office, Humanities 254C. I must have it, in hand, by 1:05 PM. Late papers will not be accepted.

Tues. 28 Apr: Oral presentations of papers (session 1).

Thur. 30 Apr: Oral presentations of papers (session 2).

Tues. 5 May: Assignment to be announced.

Final examination: Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 8:00-10:00 AM (morning!), Humanities 111.