A EAC 430
Traditional Chinese Travel Literature
Fall 2016
Course #10282

COURSE INTRODUCTION AND SYLLABUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Time/Place:</th>
<th>Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:15 AM-5:35 PM, HUM 111</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Jim Hargett; Office: HUM 254C, 442-4233</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:James.Hargett@gmail.com">James.Hargett@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-2:45 PM (or by appointment)</td>
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<td>Note:</td>
<td>I have not ordered copies of these required texts through the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on campus. Copies are conveniently available for purchase through Amazon or other book sources on the Internet. Suggestion: Buy used copies of these books, which are available on Amazon.</td>
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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 (Common Era) 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 (25%); (2) your grade on the mid-term exam (25%); (3) your grade on the final exam (25%); and (4) your grade on the research paper (25%). **Term Paper:** Each student in the class will prepare a term paper. There are two options: (1) a research paper, at least 10 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; or (2) an original composition, at least 10 pages in length, based on a visit to any notable landmark or place (Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, Great Wall of China, and so on), written in English but in the style of a prominent Chinese travel writer (this option for the term paper will be discussed further in class). **No internet sources will be allowed for either the research paper or the original composition.**

**Makeups:** 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 term paper.

**No food:** please do not bring any food or drinks to class (water is 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

M 29 Aug: Introductory

M 5 Sept: No class (Labor Day)
W 7 Sept: Read: *Strassberg*, 63-76.

M 12 Sept: *Strassberg*, 77-90; 97-102.
W 14 Sept: Read: *Strassberg*, 115-119; 127-131; 133-149.

M 19 Sept: No class (I am out of town)

M 26 Sept: Read: *Strassberg*, 205-212; *Hargett*, 1-19.


M 3 Oct: No class (Rosh Hashanah).


M 10 Oct: Read: *Hargett*, 137-164.

W 12 Oct: No class (Yom Kippur).


W 19 Oct: Read: *Strassberg*, 303-312; **Term paper title and description (one typed page) due today.**

M 24 Oct: **Midterm examination.**

W 26 Oct: Read: *Strassberg*, 317-334; 335-351.

M 31 Oct: Read: *Strassberg*, 353-360; 373-388.

W 2 Nov: Read: *Strassberg*, 389-397.

M 7 Nov: Read: *Strassberg*, 403-412.

W 9 Nov: Read: *Strassberg*, 413-422.

M 14 Nov: The mechanics of producing a term paper.

W 16 Nov: Assignment to be announced.

M 21 Nov: **Term paper draft due at 2:45 today.** Your term paper draft must be sent to me via email at: [James.Hargett@gmail.com](mailto:James.Hargett@gmail.com) Late papers (2:46 PM today and thereafter) will not be accepted for any reason.

W 23 Nov: No class (Thanksgiving)

M 28 Nov: Individual research paper consultations with the instructor (format to be announced in class)

W 30 Nov: Research paper consultations with the instructor (cont.).

M 2 Dec: **Term paper due.** Your term paper must be emailed to me at: [James.Hargett@gmail.com](mailto:James.Hargett@gmail.com) Late papers (2:46 PM and thereafter) will not be accepted for any reason. Oral presentations of papers (session 1).

W 4 Dec: Oral presentations of papers (session 2).

M 12 Dec: Oral presentations of papers (session 3).
Final examination: The final exam in this class will be a take-home. Details will be announced in class.

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