EAC 211 (class #8758)
Survey of Classical Chinese Literature II
Fall 2018
M and W 2:45-4:05
Classroom: Humanities 109

Prof. Jim Hargett
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Objectives of the course: the goal of this course is to survey, in English translation, major works of traditional Chinese literature from the Song dynasty (960-1279) to the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). There are no prerequisites; knowledge of Chinese culture, history, and language is not required. This class satisfies the General Education “Humanities” requirement. All students will be required to give at least two oral presentations. Methods of analyzing Chinese literature, the cultural context of the works studied and their relevance to modern, Western culture will be discussed in the class, along with close readings of the texts. Learning to read literature critically is the priority in this course.


No e-books or PDF versions on cell phones are allowed. Everyone in the class must purchase a copy of the printed version of The Shorter Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature.

Class format: The focus of the EAC 211 class is literary works. Therefore, although there will be some lectures to provide historical background and context, the major activity in the class will be discussion, as a class, of the assigned readings. It is essential that you read the assigned materials before attending class.

Grading: the final grade will be based on the mid-term exam grade (25%); the final exam grade (25%); preparation and participation in class discussions (30%); and at least two oral presentations (20%).

Numerical scores will be converted to course grades according to the following scale: 93-100%=A; 90-92%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 60-62%=D-; 0-59%=E.

Things to do and not to do: (1) class attendance is essential. Do not cut class. (2) Purchase a copy of the textbook right away and be sure to take it to every class. You must have the assignment under discussion in front of you to participate fully in class discussions. (3) Ask questions whenever you do not understand something. (4) Take detailed notes. Late work will
not be **not** accepted for any reason. No make-ups will be given without written permission from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. (5) Do not bring food to class.

**Academic integrity**: The discovery of any cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any kind) on an exam, homework or any other assignment will result in (1) immediate expulsion from the course with a failing grade; and (2) a report to appropriate UAlbany officials.

**Characteristics of all General Education Courses**
1. General Education courses offer introductions to the central topics of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
2. General Education courses offer explicit rather than tacit understandings of the procedures, practices, methodology and fundamental assumptions of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
3. General Education courses recognize multiple perspectives on the subject matter.
4. General Education courses emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
5. General Education courses promote critical inquiry into the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study; they aim to develop the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies characteristic of critical thinking.

**Learning Objectives for General Education **Humanities Courses**

Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect. Humanities courses also enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods of study, and theories of at least one of the disciplines within the humanities. Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

1. An understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them.
2. An understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university.
3. An ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline.
4. An ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them.
5. An understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition and canon.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Note: all page references below are to Mair, *The Shorter Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*

8/27 (M): Introductory
8/29 (W): Read: “Introduction,” xvii-xxvi; we will also go over the handout on terms related to literature (this handout will be distributed on 8/27).

9/3 (M): Read: 355-58; 375-78; 397-406 (Sung/Song dynasty prose)
9/5 (W): Read: 116-24 (Sung/Song dynasty shih/shī 诗 or “classical poetry”)
9/10 (M): No class. Rosh Hashanah
9/12 (W): Read: 155-72 (Sung/Song dynasty tz’u/ci 词 or “lyrics”); 673-713 (Yuan dynasty drama)
9/17 (M): Read: 125-27 (Yuan dynasty “classical poetry”); 171-78 (Yuan dynasty ch’ü/qu 曲 or “arias”)
9/19 (W): No class. Yom Kippur
9/24 (M): Read: 430-40 (“jokes”)
9/26 (W): Read: 551-65 (the vernacular short story)

10/1 (M): The Peony Pavilion (DVD)
10/3 (W): The Peony Pavilion (continued); Read: 713-20 (southern-style drama)
10/8 (M): Oral Presentations, Round 1
10/10 (W): Oral Presentations (continued)
10/15 (M): Oral Presentations (continued)
10/17 (W): Mid-Term Examination
10/22 (M): Read: 378-91 (essays and sketches)
10/24 (W): Read: 566-80 (excerpt from the novel Journey to the West)
10/29 (M): Video: “The Monkey King”
10/31 (W): Read: 581-91 (excerpt from the novel Water Margin)

11/5 (M): Read: 591-604 (excerpt from the novel Dream of Red Towers)
11/7 (W): Video: Dream of Red Towers (the ultimate soap opera/tragedy)

11/12 (M): Read: 485-506 (“tales of the strange”)
11/14 (W): Young Judge Bao (view on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJchF8sjLjo
11/19 (M): Ming dynasty travel writing 1: sightseeing and the vignette (xiaopin 小品)
11/21 (W): No class. Thanksgiving.

11/26 (M): Ming dynasty travel writing 2: Xu Xiake 1587-1641
11/28 (W): Qing dynasty travel writing: Liang Qichao’s 梁启超 (1873-1929) Visit to the United States in 1903
12/3 (M): Oral Presentations, Round 2
12/5 (W): Oral Presentations (continued)
12/10 (M): Oral Presentations (continued)

**Final Exam:** Thursday December 13, 2018, 3:30-5:30 PM. Please do not ask to take the final exam early. Everyone must take the exam on 13 December.