A EAC 430

Traditional Chinese Travel Literature
Spring 2020
Course #9836

COURSE INTRODUCTION AND SYLLABUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Time/Place:</th>
<th>Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:45-4:05 PM, Humanities 114</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></td>
<td>Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing in Imperial China, by Richard E. Strassberg (ISBN 0520085809). An E-book of this title at no cost is available here: <a href="https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft2m3nb15s;query=;brand=ucpress">https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft2m3nb15s;query=;brand=ucpress</a> So, you do NOT need to purchase a copy of this book.</td>
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Course Description and Introduction: This course deals specifically with a genre of prose writing popular in ancient China that modern critics call "travel accounts" (youji 游记) or "travel account literature" (youji wenxue 游记文学). We will read and critically analyze travel writings from the early centuries of the CE (Common Era) until the early seventeenth century periods, for it was during this period that travel writing 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 are drawn mainly from my Jade Mountains and Cinnabar Pools book 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. Students are all expected to present oral reports on assigned topics to the class. These oral reports will be assigned in advance by the instructor.

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 and the quality of your oral reports (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 writing; 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 written in the prose 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); (4) thoroughly prepare your oral reports (a short PPT is preferred).

**How to do poorly in this class:** (1) miss lots of classes; (2) fail to complete the reading assignments; (3) often arrive late for class; (4) never participate in class discussions; (5) 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:

*Hargett = Jade Mountains and Cinnabar Pools*, by James M. Hargett

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

W 22 Jan: Introductory

M 27 Jan: Read: Hargett, 3-17. Discussion: The Essentials of Chinese Travel Writing

W 29 Jan: The Essentials of Chinese Travel Writing (continued).

M 3 Feb: Read: Hargett, 18-57. Discussion: The Six Dynasties Period

W 5 Feb: Read: Strassberg, 67-71. Discussion: The prefaces of Shi Chong and Tao Yuanming; Huiyuan’s 慧遠 (334-416) “Preface to the Poems about a Sightseeing Trip to Stone Gate by the Lay Buddhists from Mount Lu”

M 10 Feb: Discussion: Faxian’s *Accounts of Buddhist Kingdoms* and Li Daoyuan’s *Commentary to the Waterways Treatise*. 

W 12 Feb: Read: Hargett, 58-89. Discussion: The Tang dynasty (618-907); the ji 記 (or “account”) as an independent form of prose writing.

M 17 Feb: Yuan Jie 元結 (719-772) and the “landscape essay”
W 19 Feb: Liu Zongyuan (772-819), the “landscape essay,” and exile in the south.

M 24 Feb: Read: Strassberg, 97-102, and 127-131. Discussion: The Da Tang Xiyu ji 大唐西域記 and the Lainan lu 來南錄
W 26 Feb: Read: Hargett, 90-121; Strassberg, 173-177; and 188-191 (Stone Bells Mountain”) Discussion: Sightseeing accounts and river diaries.

M 2 Mar: Term paper title and description (one typed page) due today.
W 4 Mar: Read: Hargett, 141-175. Discussion: Tourism in the late Ming and the proliferation of travel writing.

M 9 Mar: Read: Strassberg, 335-351. Discussion: Zhang Dai 張岱 (ca. 1597-ca. 1679), the “vignette” (xiaopin 小品), and recreational-sightseeing travel writing.
W 11 Mar: Midterm Examination

M 16 Mar: Spring Break (no classes)
W 18 Mar: Spring Break (no classes)

M 23 March: Xu Xiake 徐霞客 (1587-1641) and “geographical-investigative” travel writing.
W 25 Mar: Xu Xiake (continued)

M 30 Mar: Late Qing dynasty (1644-1911) and Early Republican period (1912-1949) travel writing: China’s internal politics and accounts of trips abroad.
W 1 Apr: Read: Liang Qichao’s 梁啟超 (1873-1929) “Observations on a Trip to America” (from his 新大陸游記; to be distributed in PDF form by the instructor).

M 6 Apr: Discussion: The mechanics of producing the final version of a term paper.
W 8 Apr: Term paper draft due at 2:45 today. Your term paper draft must be sent to me via email at: James.Hargett@gmail.com Late papers (2:46 PM today and thereafter) will not be accepted for any reason.

M 13 Apr: No class (I am out of town)
W 18 Apr: Individual research paper consultations with the instructor (format to be announced in class)

M 20 Apr: Research paper consultations with the instructor (cont.).
W 22 Apr: Term paper due. Your term paper must be emailed to me at: James.Hargett@gmail.com Late papers (2:46 PM and thereafter) will not be accepted for any reason.

M 27 Apr: Oral presentations of papers (session 1).
W 29 Apr: Oral presentations of papers (session 2).

M 4 May: Oral presentations of papers (session 3).

**Final examination**: Details about the final exam will be announced in class.