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Chinese 7A ***Introduction to Chinese Literature and Culture***

Course Description: Chinese 7A is the first semester in a year long sequence introducing students to the literatures and cultures of China. We will read many of the major authors, works, philosophical traditions, and literary genres from the beginnings of Chinese civilization to the Song dynasty, look at aspects of Chinese visual and material culture, and place these artifacts in their historical and cultural contexts. The course surveys the expansive literary and cultural topography of early China, while at the same time helping students to develop the reading and writing skills needed to engage critically and imaginatively with that historical terrain.

Prerequisites: No previous knowledge of Chinese literature, culture, or history is expected or assumed. All readings are presented in English translation. Students who are conversant in Chinese are, however, encouraged to read original texts whenever possible.

Requirements: Consistent and on-time attendance at lectures and sections
Timely and thoughtful completion of reading assignments
Engaged participation in lecture and section meetings
Three papers (4-5 pages each)
Two in-class quizzes
Midterm Exam (Take Home)
Final Exam

Grading Policies: Extensions will not normally be granted for papers. Late papers will be marked down. You must notify one of the instructors if you need to be absent from a class or section meeting. Students with more than three unexcused absences will normally be asked to withdraw from the class. The semester grade will be determined by the following formula: Papers (40%), final exam (20%), midterm (15%), quizzes (15%), attendance, timely completion of reading assignments, occasional "micro-assignments" posted to bCourses, and in-class participation (10%). Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the class.

Classroom wireless policy: Usage of cell phones, laptop computers, or other wireless devices is *not* permitted in lecture or section meetings.

Required Texts:

Owen, Stephen, ed. *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911*.
Chinese 7A Course Reader. (Available at Metro Publishing, 2440 Bancroft Way).

SCHEDULE and READING ASSIGNMENTS

(Note: Page numbers in parentheses refer to the Owen anthology. Readings included in the *Chinese 7A Course Reader* are marked with a *.)

Th 8/28

Introduction

Tu 9/2

Beginnings: Zhou Ritual Culture and *The Classic of Poetry*
"Early China: Introduction" (3-9), Beginnings (10-29)
*Owen, "Foreword to the Book of Songs"

- Th 9/4 **Early Poetic Traditions: The *Classic of Poetry* and the “Great Preface”**
 Selections from the *Classic of Poetry* (10-57), especially “Yellow Bird” (26), “Fishhawk” (30-31), “The Han So Wide” (31-32), “Plums are Falling,” “Dead Roe Deer” (36), “Quince” (45), “Zhongzi, Please” (46), “Huge Rat” (52-53).
 Using the Poems and Early Interpretation (58-59);
 The “Great Preface” to the *Classic of Poetry* (64-71)
- Tu 9/9 **Confucius and his Context**
 *Confucius, Selections from the *Analects*
 *Fingarette, *Confucius: The Sacred as Secular*, chs. 1-2
- Th 9/11 **Confucius: Language, Music, and Power**
 *Selections from the *Analects*
Quiz # 1 in class
- Tu 9/16 **Zhuang-zi: Language, Music, and the Cosmos**
 The *Zhuang-zi*—Introduction (113), “Discourse on Thinking of Things as Being on the Same Level” (113-122)
- Th 9/18 **Zhuang-zi: Cosmic Comic**
 *Further selections from the *Zhuang-zi*
- Tu 9/23 **History and Culture of the Han Dynasty**
Paper # 1 due
- Th 9/25 **Sima Qian and the *Historical Records***
 Introduction (135), “Letter in Reply to Ren An” (136-141);
 The *Historical Records*—“Biography of Bo Yi and Shu Qi” (142-144)
 The *Historical Records* — * “Biographies of the Assassin-Retainers”
- Tu 9/30 **Early Poetic Traditions (2): Songs of the South**
 The *Chu-ci*, Introduction (155-156), “The Lady of the Xiang River” (157-158), “Li Sao,” (162-175)
- Th 10/2 **Yue-fu: Lyrics of the “Music Bureau”**
 The Chinese “Middle Ages” (221-6); *Yue-fu* (227-243)
 TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE
- Tu 10/7 **The Six Dynasties: History, Culture, and the Lyric Voice**
 Introduction (249-250); The “Nineteen Old Poems”—I (253), II (259), X (257), XIII (260), XIV (260), XV (261), XIX (256), and Cao Cao—
 “The Bitter Cold” (262-263), “Short Song” (280-281);
 Cao Zhi—“Sending Off Mr. Ying (first of two)” (262);
 Ruan Ji—“Songs of My Cares” I (256), III (253), XVI, VI, XXXIII (270-2)
- Th 10/9 **The Poetry of Tao Qian**
 The Poetry of the Southern Dynasties (311);
 Tao Qian—“An Account of Peach Blossom Spring” (309-310);
 Tao Qian—poems and commentaries (312-319)
 *Stephen Owen, “The Self’s Perfect Mirror: Poetry as Autobiography”
- Tu 10/14 **Histories’ of the Supernatural : Six Dynasties *zhi-guai***
 *Selected *zhiguai* tales
- Th 10/16 ***Zhi-guai*, continued**

- Tu 10/21 **Sui and Tang Dynasties: History and Culture**
 “The Tang Dynasty: Introduction” (365-370);
 “Tang Poetry: General Introduction” (371-384)
Paper # 2 Due
- Th 10/23 **Wang Wei and the High Tang: Zen Nobility**
 “Introduction” and poems by Wang Wei (385-395)
- Tu 10/28 **Li Bo and the High Tang: Apotheosis of Self**
 Li Bo—poems and commentaries (397-404);
 *Stephen Owen, “Li Po: A New Concept of Genius”
- Th 10/30 **Du Fu and the High Tang: the Ethics of Voice**
 Du Fu—poems and commentaries (413-440);
 *Stephen Owen, “Tu Fu”
- Tu 11/4 **Du Fu, continued**
Quiz # 2 in class
- Th 11/6 **Tang Chang’an and the “Account of the Strange” (*Chuanqi*)**
 Two Tales of Keeping Faith: “Ren’s Story,” “Li Zhang-wu’s Story”
 (518-531)
 Two Tales of Faith Broken: “Huo Xiao-yu’s Story,” “Ying-ying’s
 Story” (531-549)
- Tu 11/11 **NO CLASS**
- Tu 11/13 **The Poetry of the Late Tang**
 Li He—Introduction (489), “Little Su’s Tomb” (490-491), “Dream of
 Heaven” (491), “Song of a Young Nobleman at the End of Night”
 (491)
 Du Mu—Introduction (502-503), “Pouring Wine Alone” (503), “Written
 on the Kai-yuan Temple at Xuan-zhou” (503-504);
 Li Shang-yin—Introduction (510), “Left Untitled (second of two)”
 (511), “Left Untitled (one of four)” (511-512)
- Tu 11/18 **Song dynasty: History and Culture**
 “The Song Dynasty: Period Introduction” (553-558)
Paper # 3 due
- Th 11/20 **The Song Lyric (*Ci*)**
 “Traditions of Song Lyric” (559-577);
 *Shuen-fu Lin, “The Formation of a Distinct Generic Identity for *Tz’u*”
 Su Shi (577-580); Li Qingzhao (580-3)
- Tu 11/25 **Literati Culture: Public and Private Worlds**
 Li Qingzhao, *Records on Metal and Stone* (591-596)
 Memorial (597-601); Accounts of Visits (610-614); The Literature of
 Place (620-630)
- Thanksgiving Break**
- Tu 12/2 **Literati Culture: Material Worlds**
 “The Ornaments of Literati Culture” (637-662)
- Th 12/4 **Song Poetry, Su Shi, and Literati Culture**
 Song Poetry and Su Shi (663-683)