Rhodes College
Fall 2005

Chinese Literary Heritage (CHIN 210)

Instructor: Manling Luo (luom@rhodes.edu)

Class: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30-4:45, Barret Library 216
Office Hour: Thursday 2:30-3:30 or by appointment, 523 Rhodes Tower.

Course Objective: This course introduces students to one of the world’s richest literary heritages – traditional Chinese literature. It combines a general survey of Chinese literature from high antiquity up to the modern time with detailed analyses of some representative writers and their works. The materials are arranged in a chronological order roughly corresponding to the historical development of Chinese civilization. This arrangement aims at giving students an opportunity to grasp some essential information about Chinese history and culture as well. Special attention will be given to training students to read carefully and thoughtfully. Since students from Occidental backgrounds have already read a considerable amount of Western literature, they are encouraged to adopt a comparative approach and to bring their knowledge of Western culture and literature to bear on the study of this course. All readings are in English. No prior knowledge of Chinese language and culture is required.

Class Format: Classes will combine lecture and discussion; generally during the first quarter the instructor will provide background information and the rest of the time will be reserved for discussions. Each student will be given the opportunities to lead discussions.

Textbooks:
Y. W. Ma and Joseph S. M. Lau eds., Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations (abbreviated as Traditional Stories)

Grading:
1. Questions, Presentation, Quizzes: 25%
2. One mid-term exam: 30%
3. One critical analysis: 10%
4. One final paper: 25%
5. Attendance and participation: 10%

Note: A: 95-100    A-: 90-94    B+: 85-89    B: 80-84    B-: 75-79
     C+: 70-74    C: 65-69    C-: 60-64    D: 50-59
     F: 49 or lower

• Absences would adversely affect your grade. An unexcused absence will lower your final grade by one degree. A total of 5 absences or more will lead to a final “F.”
• The Honor Code must be honored.
• The reading schedule may be subject to change

Tentative Reading Schedule:

• The three to five questions are due 12:00 midnight before each class.
• Presentation schedule is to be determined.

I. Introduction:

II. Early Voices: 10th century B.C.-3rd century A.D.
2. (8/30) Early poetic voices
   Anthology: Book of Songs: poems 1-5, 7-8, 12, 14, 19-20, 22-25, 28, 31-33, pp. 3-29.
3. (9/01) Early Historical Writings
4. (9/06) Historical Biographies by Ssu-ma Ch’ien
5. (9/08) Rhapsody and the discourse on death

III. Literature of the “Middle Ages”: 3rd century-10th century
6. (9/13) Wine and escape
   Anthology: "Letter to Sun Hui-tsung" (Yang Yun), "Letter to Shan T’ao" (Hsi K'ang), "Peach Blossom Spring" (T’ao Ch’ien), pp.157-68; "The Bones of Chuang Tzu" (Chang Heng), “Poems of My Heart” (Juan Chi), all of T’ao Ch’ien’s poems, pp. 174-88.
7. (9/15) The golden age of Chinese poetry: part 1
   Anthology: “Three Poems from 'Tedious Ways” (Pao Chao), all of Han-shan’s poems, pp.189-202; “Letter to the Bachelor of Arts P’ei Ti” (Wang Wei), “Poems of the River Wang” (Wang Wei and P’ei Ti), all of Wang Wei’s poems, all of Li Po’s poems pp. 217-34.
8. (9/20) The golden age of Chinese poetry: part 2
9. (9/22) The new archaic-style prose essay


10. (9/27) Tang tales of the marvelous


11. (9/29) Romantic adventures of the Tang


IV. The developing tradition during Song and Yuan, 10th century-14th century

12. (10/04) The Song prose and song lyric

**Anthology:** "The Sound of Autumn" (Ou-yang Hsiu), pp. 368-69; "The Red Cliff I" and "The Red Cliff II" (Su Shih), pp. 381-84; all of Wen T'ing-yun's song lyric, all of Wei Chuang’s song lyric, pp. 336-41; all of Li Yü’s song lyric, pp. 348-52; all of Su Shih’s song lyric, pp. 355-57.

13. (10/06) Early drama: part 1

**Anthology:** “Li Huei Carries Thorns” (K'ang Chin-Chih), pp. 393-421.

14. (10/11) Early drama: part 2

**Anthology:** “Autumn in the Palace of Han” (Ma Chih-Yuan), pp. 422-50.

Review for the mid-term exam.

15. (10/13) **Mid-term exam**

V. Stories of Late Imperial China, 14th century-19th century

16. (10/20) The selfless friend


17. (10/25) The knight-errant


18. (10/27) The ingrate

19. (11/01) The courtesan in love

**Traditional Stories:** “Tu Shih-niang Sinks the Jewel Box in Anger,” pp.137-160; “The Oil Peddler Courts the Courtesan,” pp. 177-208;

20. (11/03) The reunited couple


21. (11/08) The supernatural maiden


**Critical analysis due.**

22. (11/10) The ghost wife


23. (11/15) The femme fatale


24. (11/17) The judge

**Traditional Stories:** “Nie Yi-tao the Magistrate,” “The Jest that leads to Disaster,” “Lion Cub Lane,” “Magistrate T’eng and the Case of Inheritance,” pp.463-501.

25. (11/29) The detective

**Traditional Stories:** “The Book that Reveals the Culprit,” “Yen-chih,” pp. 503-30.

26. (12/01) The master thief and the trickster


27. (12/06) TBD

28. (12/12) **Final paper due at 12:00 noon.**