

01:165:412 Chinese Poetry
Tu, Th (6:10-7:30PM)
Campbell Hall A3
Instructor: Xin Ning
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Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 pm Thursday
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Course Description:

This course is designed both as an upper level Chinese language class and an introductory class to classical Chinese poetry. In this semester, we will concentrate on the development of Chinese poetry from its beginning (around 11th century BCE) to the end of Southern Song Dynasty (late 13th century AD). Also owing to the time limit we are going to read mostly short, lyrical works. We will explore Chinese poetry from many different angles: its different genres and styles; the lyrical tone, imagery and symbolism that characterize Chinese poetry; the social contexts of classical Chinese poetry, such as its relations with history, Chinese philosophy and religion, and gender issues. The prerequisites of the class are 01:165:302, or 165:322, or equivalent. All the reading materials are in Chinese, yet are provided with English translations wherever they are available. The working language of the class is Chinese yet English may be used when necessary. Exams and papers must be finished in Chinese. Class meets twice a week.

Requirements:

1. Regular class attendance and participation
2. An anthology of select poems, to be presented in class (presentations will be done in class from 11/16 through 12/07; the copy of the anthology should be handed in no later than the last day of class)
3. Midterm exam

The mid-term examination will consist of three parts:

A section in which you will be asked to list items for a particular topic

A section in which you will be asked to define or discuss certain key terms; and

An essay section in which I will ask you to write on the content, form, or other aspects of the material we covered in class.

4. Three short papers

Each paper should be about 1000 Characters in Chinese. Take certain poems we read in class and make detailed analysis of them in these papers. Since they are not research papers in a strict sense, you can also add your subjective reflections to the textual analysis. However, the close reading of the original texts should always be the priority.

5. Quizzes

Short quizzes may be given from time to time, but altogether no more than 5 during the whole semester.

Regular class attendance and participation are important requirements for this course. They can make a significant difference in your grade.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

9/04 Introduction: Traditional Chinese literature and traditional Chinese poetry;

9/06 The origin of Chinese poetry: *Shi Jing (Book of Songs, Classic of Poetry)*, **Part I**. The historical context of *Shi Jing*; *Shi Jing*' Structure; the general form of *Shi Jing* poems; the reception of *Shi Jing* in Chinese history. Various themes, styles and images in *Shi Jing* poems (I): Selections from *Shi Jing*, pp. 1-15 (from “guan ju” to “fu yi”)

Week 2:

9/11 The origin of Chinese poetry: *Shi Jing (Book of Songs, Classic of Poetry)*, **Part II**. Various themes, styles and images in *Shi Jing* poems (II): Selections from *Shi Jing*, pp.16-22, pp. 30-44, pp. 56-60

9/13 The origin of Chinese poetry: *Shi Jing (Book of Songs, Classic of Poetry)*, **Part III**. Various themes, styles and images in *Shi Jing* poems (III): Selections from *Shi Jing*, pp. 113-130, pp. 136-147, pp. 153-162

Week 3:

9/18 *Chu Ci*, Songs from the South, **Part I**: The characteristics of Chu culture and its differences from northern culture; the life story of Qu Yuan

9/20 *Chu Ci*, Songs from the South, **Part II**: Selections of *Chu Ci* (I): pp. 44-56

Week 4:

9/25 *Chu Ci*, Songs from the South, **Part III**: Selections of *Chu Ci* (II): pp. 56-66

9/27 *Chu Ci*, Songs from the South, **Part IV**: Selections of *Chu Ci* (III): pp. 66-71; pp. 162-69

Week 5:

10/02 **Yue Fu (Music Bureau) Folk Songs, Part I**: New Folk Songs and the rise of five-character line pattern; general themes of **Yue Fu**; Selections of *Yue Fu*, Vol. One (I): pp. 1-37

10/04 **Yue Fu (Music Bureau) Folk Songs, Part II:** Selections of Yue Fu, Vol. One (II): pp. 38-66 *Deadline of response paper one*

Week 6:

10/09 **Yue Fu (Music Bureau) Folk Songs, Part III:** Selections of Yue Fu, Vol. One (III): pp. 68-121

10/11 **Yue Fu (Music Bureau) Folk Songs, Part IV:** Selections of Yue Fu, Vol. Two: Southern and Northern Dynasties *Yue Fu*, pp. 328-337, pp. 529-535

Week 7:

10/16 The development of **literati poetry** in Late Han, Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, **Part I:** Selections pp. 50-66 (Nineteen Ancient Poems I-XV)

10/18 the development of **literati poetry** in Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, **Part II:** Selections pp. 130-138 (Cao Cao: “Song of the Burial” to “Walking outside the Xia Gate, Viewing the Sea”)

Week 8:

10/23 the development of **literati poetry** in Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties **Part III:** Selection pp. 296-302 (Tao Yuanming: “Back to Country Life” to “Two Poems on Moving Houses, One”); p. 306 (“Drinking Wine, One”); pp. 346-348 (Xie Lingyun, “Upstairs in My Lake Chamber”)

10/25 Midterm Exam

Week 9:

10/30: **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part I:** General introduction. historical background; maturation of rhyme and rhythm patterns;

11/01 **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part II:** the new metrical patterns (I): Wu Lü (Five-character eight-line regulated poems) and Wu Jue (Five Character four-line “curtailed” poems): Selection of Tang Poetry, pp. 2-4, 10-36, 124-126, 152-155

Week 10:

11/06 **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part III:** the new metrical patterns (II): Qi Lü (Seven-character eight-line regulated poems) and Qi Jue (Seven Character four-line “curtailed” poems): Selection of Tang Poetry, pp. 38-40, 66-68, 86-92, 98-104, 138-141, 256-272 *Deadline of response paper two*

11/08 **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part IV**: Poems after the style of ancient poems: **Gu Shi** (“ancient poems”) and literary **Yue Fu** in Tang Dynasty. Selection of Tang Poetry: pp. 52-55, 74-84, 110-115

Week 11:

11/13 **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part V**: Poems after the style of ancient poems: **Gu Shi** (“ancient poems”) and literary **Yue Fu** in Tang Dynasty (continued): Selection of Tang Poetry: pp. 202-224 (Bai Juyi: “Changhen ge”)

11/15 **Tang Dynasty**-the golden age of Chinese poetry, **Part VI**: Poems after the style of ancient poems: **Gu Shi** (“ancient poems”) and literary **Yue Fu** in Tang Dynasty (continued): Selection of Tang Poetry: pp. 225-240 (Bai Juyi: “Pipa axing”)

Week 12:

11/20 [Tuesday as Thursday Classes] Ci Poetry, Part I: The Rise of **Ci (Tz’u)** or **Ci Qu** in late Tang Dynasty and early Song Dynasty: from folk songs to literati adaptation (I): Selection of Ci: pp. 2-29 *Deadline of response paper three*

11/22 [Thanksgiving Recession]

Week 13:

11/27 **Ci Poetry, Part II**: The Rise of **Ci (Tz’u)** or **Ci Qu** in late Tang Dynasty and early Song Dynasty: from folk songs to literati adaptation (II): Selection of Ci: pp. 50-69; 74-77; 96-101

11/29 **Ci Poetry, Part III**: The maturation of **Ci** in Northern Song Dynasty (I): Selection of Ci: pp. 108-115, 120-133, 168-169

Week 14:

12/04 **Ci Poetry, Part IV**: The maturation of **Ci** in Southern Song Dynasty (II): Selection of Ci: pp. 190-193, 208-209, 248-259, 266-269, 318-321

12/06: In-Class presentation (I)

Week 15:

12/11: In-Class presentation (II); Conclusion *Deadline of the Anthology (hardcopy)*

Grading:

Class attendance and participation: 10%

Anthology: 20%
Quizzes: 10%
Mid-term: 30%
Three papers: 30%

Required Reading:

All the required reading materials will be put on sakai.rutgers.edu website by the end of the previous week.

Optional Books:

Other Books that May be Useful to Consult

- Birrel, Anne. *Chinese Love Poetry: New Songs from a Jade Terrace*. Leiden and London, 1982.
- . *Popular Songs and Ballads of Han China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1993.
- Chang, Kang-i Sun and Haun Saussy ed. *Women Writers of Traditional China. An Anthology of Poetry and Criticism*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999. (ISBN: 0804732302)
- Chaves, Jonathon. *Columbia Book of Later Chinese Poetry: Yuan, Ming, Ch'ing*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.
- Frodsham, J.D. and Ch'eng Hsi. *An Anthology of Chinese Verse: Han Wei Chin and Northern and Southern Dynasties*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967.
- Graham, A.C. *Poems of the Late Tang*. Middlesex and Baltimore, 1965.
- Lo, Irving and William Schultz. *Waiting for the Unicorn: Poems and Lyrics of China's Last Dynasty, 1644-1911*. Midland Book: 1990.
- Owen, Stephen. *An Anthology of Chinese Literature. Beginnings to 1911*. New York: Norton, 1996. (ISBN: 0393971066)
- . *Readings in Chinese Literary Thought*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996. (ISBN: 0674749219)
- Watson, Burton. *The Columbia Book of Chinese Poetry: From Early Times to the Thirteenth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.
- Xiao, Tong (501-531), tr. by David Knechtges. *Wen Xuan or Selections of Refined Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982- (currently 3 volumes)