

# **Survey of Chinese Literature**

**CHIN 150 (3 units)**

**Spring, 2024**

**Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30–2:45**

**2030 Mariposa Hall**

## **Instructor Information**

Curtis D. Smith

Office: Mariposa Hall 2059

Hours: Thurs 11:30–12:30, or by appointment

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## **Catalog Description**

Introduction to Chinese literature from classical times to the present. The various forms of Chinese prose, poetry, drama, and novel will be surveyed through the selective reading of representative works (in English translation). Class is conducted in English.

## **Course Description**

Explore the beautiful and rich literature of ancient China through literature in translation, supplemented with art, music, and other cultural activities. We will experience how politicians in China of over 2500 years ago thought, learn how ancient Chinese achieved immortality, eavesdrop in on a love affair between common people living during times of war 1500 years ago, and discover many other fascinating aspects of this culture so far off both in time and distance.

## **Goals of the Class**

1. Gain an understanding of Chinese history from archaic times to the twentieth century;

2. Have a basic understanding of the philosophical foundations of ancient China;
3. Be able to appreciate the literature of other cultures and times;
4. Better understand one's own place and role in one's social and political environment.

## Textbooks

**Required:** *An Anthology of Chinese Literature : Beginnings to 1911*, Stephen Owen, ED. (New York: W.W. Norton, 1996).

**Recommended:** *The Shorter Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, Victor Mair, ED.. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).

*Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations*, John Minford & Joseph S. M. Lau, eds. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).

*China : Empire and Civilization*, Edward L. Shaughnessy, ED. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).

*The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, Victor Mair, ED..

*Readings in Chinese Literary Thought*, Stephen Owen (Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 1992).

*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, Philip J. Ivanhoe & Bryan W. Van Norden, eds. (New York & London: Seven Bridges Press, 2001).

*Chinese Civilization : a sourcebook*, Patricia Ebrey, ED. (New York: Free Press, 1993).

*Sources of Chinese Tradition, Second Edition, Volume I*, William Theodore De Bary, Irene Bloom, Joseph Adler, eds. (New York: Columbia Univ Press, 2000).

*Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations*, Y. W. Ma & Joseph S. M. Lau, eds. (Boston: Cheng & Tsui, 1986).

## Grading

### Reaction papers (3) (45% of grade)

These papers should reflect your own personal feelings toward a reading of your choice. The length should be approximately 500–700 words. The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

**Argument:** Is there a coherent thesis that is neither too broad nor too narrow? Is the argument clearly stated in the introduction and adequately developed throughout the paper? Does the argument develop logically leading to the conclusion?

**Evidence:** Is the argument supported with adequate evidence? How well does the essay use evidence from the text? Does it use evidence appropriately, to support arguable claims, and not superfluously, to support self-evident statements? Are contradictory examples suggested and refuted to eliminate doubts?

**Style:** How well is the paper written? Has it been carefully proof-read for spelling and grammatical errors? Does the paper flow logically from beginning to end? Are there necessary transitions? Is the syntax smooth and easy to read? Does the paper length match the assignment?

A grading rubric will be uploaded on Canvas. Papers with a grade below B will be eligible for revision and re-submission. They shall be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday of weeks 5, 9, and 13.

### Final Examination (30% of grade)

This examination shall be in the format of short- and long-answer questions.

### Discussion (15% of grade)

You are expected to have completed all assigned readings before class meets, and to actively participate in class discussion. Each student shall be responsible for leading a class discussion several times throughout the semester.

### Attendance (10% of grade)

Class lecture and discussions will cover material outside of the readings. Please arrive and be prepared before class begins. Two late arrivals will be considered equivalent to an absence. If you must miss class please notify as early as possible. Failure to provide documentation of the reason will result in an unexcused absence. More than two absences may cause a lowering of your grade. Late assignments or make-up exams will be considered for excused absences only.

## Grading Criteria

The final semester grade will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Grading Criteria	
Scaled Score*	Letter Equivalent
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+
60–66	D
0–59	F

\*Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

## University Grading Policy

Read the Grading Policy: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acad/UMG05150.htm>

**Incompletes:** These are discouraged and will not be issued except in cases where a student has made previous arrangements with the professor. An incomplete grade means a portion of the course requirements remain to be completed and evaluated after the course has ended. Remaining work must be completed within a year or it is counted as an

F. Unauthorized withdrawal indicates that a student did not officially withdraw from a course but failed to complete it. An unauthorized withdrawal is charged as a failing grade in the GPA calculation.

## **Academic Honesty**

The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades. Please read Academic Honesty and Procedures: <https://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-100.htm>.

Course assignments should reflect your own ideas, but if you get information from a book, an article, a website, or a colleague, be sure to say so (except for information I give in class, which I consider to be in the public domain). The use of another's ideas or words without acknowledgement constitutes **plagiarism**, which is a serious breach of the Hornet Honor Code, which will result in a 0 for the assignment, and possibly an F for the course, depending on severity. Cases of plagiarism will also be referred to the University administration. See the CSUS Campus Library's Writing Guide: Plagiarism for more information.

## **Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act and would like to request accommodation, please provide disability documentation to the Disability Access Center, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955, then see me as early in the semester as possible. For more information, Email: [dac@csus.edu](mailto:dac@csus.edu).

## **Tentative Schedule**

This is only a tentative schedule. Topics discussed will be adjusted as the class progresses. You are expected, however, to read according to this schedule unless otherwise advised in class. The dates assignments are will *not* change. All page numbers refer to Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*.

Week 1: Introduction

*The Classic of Poetry*, 30–32, 34–46;

“The Ballad of Mu-lan”, 241–243.

Week 2: The *Chu-ci*, 155–175, 189–190.

The Beginnings of Classical Poetry, 249–261.

Week 3: The Purpose of Literature

Wang Hsi-chih, “Preface to *Collected Poems from the Orchid Pavilion*”, 283–284. Cao Pi, “A Discourse on Literature”, 359–361; Lu

Ji, “The Poetic Exposition on Literature”, 335–343;

Week 4: Tao Qian, “An Account of Peach Blossom Spring”, 309–319.

Week 5: Xie Ling-yun, 319–323

Court Poetry, 325–330.

Week 6: Tang poetry I, 365–384.

Week 7: High Tang Poetry, 385–412.

Week 8: Tang Poetry III

Du Fu, 413–440; Interlude: Xuan-zong and Yang the Prized Consort, 441–452; Tang Literature of the Frontier, 459–477; Mid- and Late Tang Poetry, 478–492.

Week 9: T’ang prose

Tang Tales (*chuan-qi*), 518–552.

Classical Prose, 591–630.

Week 10: The Song Dynasty

The Song Dynasty: Period Introduction, 553–558.

Week 11: Sung lyrics

Traditions of Song Lyric (Tang and Song Dynasties), 559–590.

Week 12: Su Shi I Su Shi, 663–683, 652.

Week 13: Ming and Qing Stories Vernacular Stories: Feng Meng-long and Lang-xian, p.834; Pu Song-ling (1640–1715), *Liao-zhai’s Record of Wonders*, p.1103.

Week 14: Yüan Mei, *What the Master Would not Speak Of*, to be distributed.

## Week 15: Review and discussion