



Chinese 205

CLASSICAL CHINESE LITERATURE
IN TRANSLATION

Professor Xinda Lian

This course examines some representative masterworks of early China from antiquity to the 13th Century, providing acquaintance with major literary types and landmarks in Chinese literary history. Readings will include a substantial selection of poetic works (ranging from poems from *The Book of Songs* to the poetry of the Tang Dynasty and the song lyrics of the Song Dynasty), various kinds of prose works such as philosophical text, history, biography, and fiction in its embryonic form. Relevant secondary sources in literary history and literary criticism will be introduced to those interested in further investigation of the subjects discussed. Materials covered will be selected and organized in such a way that not only can they be studied analytically in terms of themselves, but also be explored in their historical, social and cultural contexts.

Required Texts:

Cyril Birch, ed., *Anthology of Chinese Literature: From Early Times to the Fourteenth Century* (New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1965)

Li Zehou, *The Path of Beauty: A Study of Chinese Aesthetics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994

Frederick W. Mote, *Intellectual Foundation of China* (New York: McGraw-Hill Pub. Co., 1989)

Coursepack and handouts

Recommended Texts:

Victor H. Mair, ed., *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994).

Burton Watson, tr., *The Columbia Book of Chinese Poetry: From Early Times to the Thirteenth Century* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984).

Course Work:

1. *Essays and Research Paper*

a) Two 4-page essays during the course will be graded. The first essay, a discussion on a story from the *Shih-chi* by Ssu-ma Chien, is due in Week 7. The second essay, a close-reading analysis of a poem from the Tang Dynasty, is due in Week 12.

b) A research paper of 12 pages long is due on the final exam day. Suggested topics will be provided, but topics may also be selected by students as long as the approval of the instructor is obtained.

2. *Mid-term and Final*

There will be a mid-term and a final. The one-hour mid-term will be given in Week 8 and will cover materials studied through Week 7. The final will cover the entire course. General review questions will be distributed during the last week of class.

3. *Journals*

Students are required to keep a reading journal (3 entries a week).

4. *In-class writing*

You should be prepared to put down in writing your comments--very brief but to the point--on what you read. In-class writing practice will be given from time to time without special notice. Your writings will be carefully read and will count toward your final grade.

5. *Attendance and active participation in class*

Final Grade

20%	Participation in class discussion and in-class writing.
10%	Mid-term
15%	Final
20%	Essays.
10%	Reading Journal
25%	Research paper

Schedule of Readings and Topics:

W 1 Introduction

Myth and Early Civilization

(1) Wenli Ke and Meixue Hou, trans. & eds., *Stories from Chinese Mythology* (Tianjin: Nankai University Press, 1991), pp. 68-86, 106-122, 248-254 (Coursepack pp. 9-22).

(2) F. W. Mote, *Intellectual Foundation of China* (New York: McGraw-Hill Pub. Co., 1989), pp. 9-10, 12-16.

Euhemerism & Ancient Chinese World-view

James Legge, tr., "The Canon of Yao," and "The counsels of the Great Yu," from *The Book of History*, in Lin Yutang, ed., *The Wisdom of China and India* (New York: Random House, 1942), pp. 707-718 (Coursepack pp. 2-8).

W 2 *Intellectual Foundation*, pp. 16-25.

The Book of Songs (Shi jing): Narrative Poetry

(1) Arthur Waley, tr., *The Book of songs* (New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1960), pp. 246-254 (Coursepack pp. 23-27).

(2) Cyril Birch, *Anthology of Chinese Literature: From Early Times to the Fourteenth Century*, pp. 3-7 (poem #1), 23-28 (poems #27-31).

The Book of Songs: Lyrics

Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 7-23 (poems #2-26), 28-29 (poems #32-33).

W 3 **Secular as Sacred: Confucius**

(1) Confucius, *The Analects of Confucius* (New York: Vintage Books, 1989), pp. 159-161 (Coursepack pp. 31-32).

(2) Selections from Confucian *Analects* and the *Mencius* in Victor Mair, ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994), pp. 40-44 (Coursepack pp. 33-35 right hand side).

(3) *Intellectual Foundation*, pp. 27-46.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching

(1) D. C. Lau, tr. *Tao Te Ching* (Penguin Books, 1963), pp. 58-59, 67, 99, 122, 140, 142 (Coursepack pp. 28-31).

(2) *Intellectual Foundation*, pp. 59-73.

Chuang Tzu

(1) Burton Watson, tr., *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1964), "The Secret of Caring for Life," "The Way of Heaven," pp. 150-153 (Coursepack pp. 41-42).

(2) *Intellectual Foundation*, pp. 73-76.

(3) *Intellectual Foundation*, pp. 92-94 (Section "Chuang Tzu").

W 4 **Chuang Tzu**

Selections from the *Chuang Tzu* in Victor Mair, *Columbia Anthology*, pp. 45-55 (Coursepack pp. 35-40).

Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 82-90.

Make-up and Discussion

W 5 **The Songs of Ch'u**

Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 49-62.

Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 63-64 (poem #1), 65-66 (poems #3-5) 69-70 ("In Praise of the Orange Tree), 71-72 (From " The Nine Arguments), 79-80 ("Summons for a Gentleman Who Became a Recluse").

Early Historical Writings

(1) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 30-38.

(2) Selections from Burton Watson, tr., *The tso chuan: Selections from China's Oldest Narrative History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1989), pp. 40-49 (Coursepack pp. 43-47),

W 6 (1) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 39-45.

(2) Selections from James I. Crump, tr., *Chan-Kuo Ts'e* (Oxford: Francisco: Chinese Materials Center, 1979), pp. 54-58, 151-153, 167-168, 262-263, 508-511 (Coursepack pp. 48-55).

Records of the Historian: History as Biography

Birch, *Anthology*, "Biographies by Ssu-ma Ch'ien," pp. 93-122.

W 7 Birch, *Anthology*, "Biographies by Ssu-ma Ch'ien," pp. 123-133.

Rhyme-prose (*fu*) of the Han

Birch, *Anthology*, "Rhyme-prose of the Han Dynasty," pp. 134-141, 148 (middle of the page "Here, in late fall and early winter,...")-153 (end of the verse).

!!! First 4-page essay due.

W 8 **Mid-term**

Ballads (*yuefu*) of the Han

(1) Selections from Arthur Waley, *Translations from the Chinese* (New York: Vintage Books, 1971), pp. 18-21, 26-33 (Coursepack pp. 56-61).

(2) Selections from J. D. Fordsham, *An Anthology of Chinese Verse* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), pp. 4-7 (Coursepack pp. 62-63).

Selections from the "Nineteen Old Poems," and others
(Coursepack pp. 64-69)

New Biography

Selections from Richard Mather, tr., *A New Account of Tales of the World* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1976), pp. 371-391 (Coursepack pp. 69-79).

W 9 **Poetry from the End of the Han to the Wei and Jin**

Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 174-181, 189-193.

Rustic Poetry and Landscape Poetry

(1) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 182-188.

(2) Wu-chi Liu and Irving Y. Lo, eds, *Sunflower Splendor: Three Thousand Years of Chinese Poetry* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975), pp. 58-63 (Coursepack p. 80-82).

Tales of Marvels (zhiguai) of the Six Dynasties

Selections from Hsien-yi Yang and Gladys Yang, trs., *The Man Who Sold A Ghost* (Hong Kong: The Commercial Press, 1974), pp. 1-5, 22-23, 30-31, 70-73, 78-81, 100-101, 104-106, 126-127 (Coursepack pp. 83-92).

W 10 Selections from Chi-chen Wang, tr., *Traditional Chinese Tales* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1968), pp. 1-16 (Coursepack pp. 93-100).

Tang Poetry, I: Early Tang; Wang Wei
Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 217-224.

Tang Poetry, II: High Tang; Li Bai and Du Fu
Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 225-241.

W 11 **Tang Poetry, III: Mid-Tang; Han Yu, Bai Juyi and Hanshan**
Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 260, 261 ("The Withered Tree"), 266-270 ("A Song of Unending Sorrow" and "On the Lotus Newly Planted..."), 278-280.

Tang Poetry, IV: Later Trends; Li He, Li Shangyin
Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 281-287, 323-329.

Prose of Tang and Song
Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 242-259, 364-384.

W 12 **Tang Short Stories**
(1) Selections from Chi-chen Wang, tr., *Traditional Chinese Tales* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1943), pp. 17-23 (Coursepack pp. 100-103).
(2) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 288-299.

Discussion

W 13 **Thanksgiving Recess**

W 14 Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 300-322.

Poetry of the Song Dynasty

(1) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 386-389.
(2) Coursepack pp. 104-109.

Song Lyrics (ci) of the Song Dynasty

(1) Birch, *Anthology*, pp. 333-335, 336 (poem #1), 338 (poem #3), 339-340 (poems #2, 4), 350-351 ("Wave-washed Sand" and "Gazing to the South"), 355-357.

W 15 **Soft vs. Heroic: Different Styles of Song Lyrics**

Review & Discussion

W 16 Final Paper Due !!! Second 4-page essay due.