

Introduction to Chinese Literature

Fall 2005: EAS 232

Professor: Martin Kern (mkern@)

Survey of classical Chinese literature. All readings are in English. Topics include: nature of the Chinese language; the beginnings of poetry; development of narrative and historical writing; classical Chinese poetics; nature poetry; literature of protest, dissent, and political satire; love poetry; religious and philosophical ideas in Chinese literature. (LA)

Requirements

Active and informed participation, based on the readings, in the weekly precept.

Writings:

1. two-page **weekly essays** on a primary text of your choice, due on precept day;
2. eight page **mid-term paper (due October 27)**;
3. twelve page **final paper (due January 17)**.

Grading

Class participation and weekly writings 40 %. Mid-term paper 20 %. Final paper 40 %.

Readings

Readings average ca. 100 pages per week. **You must read all assigned texts before precept.**

The principal textbook is Stephen Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature* (New York: Norton, 1996), to be purchased at the University Store.

In addition to the textbook and secondary readings, the following title is strongly recommended for historical background: Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilization* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed. 1996 [and later]). As the semester proceeds, read the relevant parts of pp. 1-348. The book is available at the University Store.

Readings on reserve (hard copy) in the East Asian Library (3rd floor of Frist Campus Center):

Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*;
Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilization*;
Wang, *From Ritual to Allegory*;
Graham, *Chuang-tzu*;
Durrant, *The Cloudy Mirror*.

All other readings are on E-reserve and can be accessed either through the Blackboard course site or at <http://infoshare1.princeton.edu/reserves/elecres.html>.

Syllabus and Reading List

9/15: Introduction to the Course: How to read a Chinese poem

9/20: The Word and the World in Chinese Poetry

- * James J.Y. Liu, "The Paradox of Poetics and the Poetics of Paradox," 49-70;
- * Stephen Owen, *Traditional Chinese Poetry and Poetics: Omen of the World*, 78-107.

9/22: Beginnings: Myth, Sacrifice, and Poetry (*Classic of Poetry*)

- * Anthology, 3-29, 124-128;
- * C.H. Wang, *From Ritual to Allegory*, 1-51.

9/27: Songs of Love and Anger (*Classic of Poetry*)

- * Anthology, 30-57;
- * Pauline Yu, *The Reading of Imagery in the Chinese Poetic Tradition*, 44-83.

9/29: Searching for the Goddess and Calling Back the Soul (*Songs from the South*)

- * Anthology, 156-175, 204-212;
- * David Hawkes, "The Quest of the Goddess," 42-68.
- * Pauline Yu, *The Reading of Imagery in the Chinese Poetic Tradition*, 84-117.

10/4: Heavenly and Imperial Journeys (*Songs from the South*)

- * Anthology, 176-197;
- * Martin Kern, "Western Han Aesthetics and the Genesis of the *Fu*," 383-437;

10/6: The Pleasures of Thinking (*Zhuangzi*)

- * A. C. Graham, *Chuang-tzu*, 3-26, 43-93.

10/11: Ancient Stories and Histories (*Zuo zhuan*, Sima Qian)

- * Anthology, 87-99, 135-145;
- * Stephen Durrant, *The Cloudy Mirror*, 1-45, 71-98.

10/13: Early Literary Thought ("Great Preface," "Records of Music")

- * Anthology, 58-70;
- * Mark Edward Lewis, *Writing and Authority in Early China*, 147-176.

10/18: The Emergence of the Lyrical Mode (Han and Wei Poetry)

- * Anthology, 227-237, 249-273;
- * Burton Watson, *Chinese Lyricism*, 15-51.

10/20: Quiet Visions of Nature (Tao Qian)

- * Anthology, 309-323;
- * Stephen Owen, "The Self's Perfect Mirror: Poetry as Autobiography," 71-85;
- * Yim-tze Kwong, "Naturalness and Authenticity: The Poetry of Tao Qian," 35-77.

10/25: Landscapes of the Mind: Medieval Poetics

- * Anthology, 282-284; 335-348;
- * Ronald C. Egan, "Poet, Mind, and World," 101-126.

10/27: Crafted Meditations (Wang Wei, Meng Haoran)

- * Anthology, 383-396;
- * Pauline Yu, *The Poetry of Wang Wei*, 1-42.

11/8: Memory and Displacement (Tang poetry)

- * Anthology, 459-477;
- * Hans H. Frankel, "The Contemplation of the Past in T'ang Poetry," 345-365;
- * Stephen Owen, *Remembrances*, 1-32.

11/10: Genius and Taoism (Li Bai)

- * Anthology, 284-285, 376-378, 397-404;
- * Stephen Owen, *The Great Age of Chinese Poetry*, 109-143;
- * Paul W. Kroll, "Li Po's Transcendent Diction," 99-117.

11/15: Self and History (Du Fu)

- * Anthology, 420-440;
- * Yoshikawa Kojirô, "Tu Fu's Poetics and Poetry," 1-26;
- * Daniel Hsieh, "Du Fu's 'Gazing at the Mountain,'" 1-18.

11/17: Ballads of Bitter Truth (Du Fu, Bai Juyi)

- * Anthology, 416-420, 441-458, 468-469;
- * Eva Shan Chou, *Reconsidering Tu Fu*, 61-106.

11/22: Phantasies of Beauty and Violence (Li Shangyin, Li He)

- * Anthology, 289, 478-484, 489-496, 510-517;

- * James J.Y. Liu, *The Poetry of Li Shang-yin*, 51-57, 207-219;
- * J.D. Frodsham, *Goddesses, Ghosts, and Demons*, xi-lviii.

11/29: Prose and Morality, “Ancient Style” (Han Yu, Liu Zongyuan)

- * Anthology, 597-603, 617-618;
- * Charles Hartman, *Han Yü and the T'ang Search for Unity*, 211-257.

12/1: The Development of “Ancient Style Prose” (Ouyang Xiu)

- * Anthology, 609-610, 613-614, 629-630, 684-688.
- * Ronald C. Egan, *The Literary Works of Ou-yang Hsiu*, 12-77;

12/6: Landscapes of the Mind (Su Shi, Liu Zongyuan, Ouyang Xiu)

- * Anthology, 292-294, 611-612, 621-624, 663-676;
- * Ronald C. Egan, *Word, Image, and Deed in the Life of Su Shi*, 207-260.

12/8: Themes and Forms of Song Poetry

- * Yoshikawa Kojir•, *An Introduction to Sung Poetry*, 1-48.

12/13: Pleasures of Poetic Life Style (Mei Yaochen, Su Shi, Ouyang Xiu)

- * Anthology, 637-655, 678-683;
- * Ronald C. Egan, *Word, Image, and Deed in the Life of Su Shi*, 261-309.

12/15: Conclusions: Deep Structures of Chinese Literature