

This copy of the syllabus is a DRAFT and contents are subject to change. It is for informational purposes only. The final Syllabus of Record will be available to registered students via eLearning at the beginning of the semester.

HONS 3199 : Masterpieces of Chinese Literature (Tang Dynasty)

Spring 2021 | M 3:00–3:50 REMOTE

Prof. J. Michael Farmer

JO 5.612

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Office Hours: Virtual by appointment.

Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode: Remote. Portions of the class will be offered as synchronous online sessions via MS Teams during regularly-scheduled class times. Additional course activities will be conducted asynchronously, including discussion boards via eLearning.

Course Platforms: Synchronous sessions will be conducted via MS Teams. Asynchronous work will be conducted via eLearning. All course assignments will be submitted via eLearning.

Expectations: This course is based on a set of primary source documents (in English translation) related to the Tang dynasty. The main course activity will be the analysis of these documents (in written form through response essays submitted as discussion board posts, and in synchronous session discussions). Students will prepare the materials prior to scheduled class sessions, and submit asynchronous work by the posted due dates. It is expected that students will participate in class discussions (synchronous sessions, and/or discussion board).

Asynchronous Learning Guidelines: Students who opt for asynchronous mode at any point in the semester are responsible for all assigned coursework (readings, assignments, discussion board activity). Due dates are fixed, regardless of instructional mode. Students who opt for asynchronous mode should utilize the “Out of Sync” Forum in the eLearning discussion board in place of synchronous discussions (in addition to regular discussion board assignments).

For UTD policy on Asynchronous Mode, see:

<https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/>

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

University’s COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record:

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to COVID-19

Not applicable to Remote instructional mode.

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus (see below). Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Recordings

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Recordings and/or transcripts thereof may be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures and/or class meetings. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Description:

This readings seminar will focus on major writers and works from a "Golden Age" of Chinese literature, the Tang Dynasty (618–907 CE). Texts for close reading, discussion, and written analysis include poetry, fiction, scripture, and historical prose.

Background readings for historical and cultural context are provided.

No prior background in Chinese language or studies is expected or required.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the literature of Tang Dynasty China, develop the skills of close and careful reading of texts, enhance the ability to discuss literature using appropriate literary terms and concepts, and increase intercultural competence.

Required Readings:

All required readings will be distributed via eLearning. There are no books to purchase.

Course Requirements:

Preparation and Participation: All students are expected to be prepared for class sessions by reading the assigned texts before class, and to actively participate in discussion of readings during synchronous sessions and on discussion boards.

Discussion Board Activity:

In addition to discussing the reading during synchronous sessions, students will actively participate in discussion of assigned readings on eLearning Discussion Boards. Weekly requirements include an Original Post [OP] consisting of a one-page response to the assigned primary text, and Responses to posts by two other class members. The OP should include a brief summary of the text (or in the case of collections of poems, the collection as a whole or a single poem, or subset of poems; your choice), a brief analysis of the literary features of the text, and your response to the reading. These are submitted weekly, beginning with Week 4. There are a total of 12 OPs; the highest 11 scores will be counted toward the final class grade. The Week 2 OP is ungraded and does not count toward the 12 OPs.

Original Posts due 3:00 PM on Mondays.

Responses to two other posts due by 11:59 PM on Thursdays.

WK	Date	Masterpieces of Chinese Lit
1	1/18	MLK Holiday: No Class
2	1/25	Introduction to the Course Ten Things About the Tang <i>Routledge Handbook</i> , Section 3 * DB 01: Introduction Due
3	2/1	Approaching Chinese Literature <i>Form in Fiction</i> , 141–146; 168–176 <i>How Does a Poem Mean</i> , 1–13
4	2/8	Tu Kuang-t'ing: “The Curly-Bearded Hero” * DB 02 Due

5	2/15	Major Tang Poets I: Wang Wei Selections <i>* DB 03 Due</i>
6	2/22	Shen Chi-chi “Miss Jen” <i>* DB 04 Due</i>
7	3/1	Major Tang Poets I: Li Po: Selections <i>* DB 05 Due</i>
8	3/8	Major Tang Poets I: Li Po: Cont. “The Road to Shu is Hard” <i>* DB 06 Due</i>
9	3/15	Spring Break
10	3/22	Major Tang Poets I: Tu Fu: Selections “Spring View” <i>* DB 07 Due</i>
11	3/29	Major Tang Poets I: Tu Fu “Autumn Meditations” <i>* DB 08 Due</i>
12	4/5	Yüan Chen: “The Story of Ts’ui Ying-ying” <i>* DB 09 Due</i>
13	4/12	Major Tang Poets II: Po Chü-i Selections “Song of Lasting Regret” <i>* DB 10 Due</i>
14	4/19	Po Hsing-chien: “The Story of Miss Li” <i>* DB 11 Due</i>
15	4/26	Han Yü: “Bone of the Buddha” “Crocodile” “Slander” <i>* DB 12 Due</i>
16	5/3	Anonymous: “Mu-lien Rescues His Mother” <i>* DB 13 Due</i>
Final	5/10– 15	No Final Exam

Grading Policy:

Percentages for the course assignments have been noted above. The following gradescale will be used: 0–59 [F]; 60–62 [D-]; 63–66 [D]; 67–69 [D+]; 70–72 [C-]; 73–76 [C]; 77–79 [C+]; 80–82 [B-]; 83–86 [B]; 87–89 [B+]; 90–92 [A-]; 93–100 [A]. In narrative form, [F]=failing; [D]=below average; [C]=average; [B]=above average; [A]=exceptional.

The professor reserves the right to curve, round, or otherwise adjust grades at his sole discretion.

Course and Instructor Policies:

Absences: Extended absences (two or more consecutive sessions) should be reported to me via email as soon as possible.

Late work: Assignments are due on the dates/times noted on the Course Schedule/Assignment Guidelines. Late work is generally not be accepted. For all work not completed by the due date, the student will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment. Exceptional circumstances may be taken into account. If you feel your circumstances merit special consideration, please notify me via email.

Written Assignments:

All assignments will be submitted via eLearning.

Discussion Board assignments are submitted directly in eLearning (no file attachments).

Assignments not meeting these basic technical specifications will not be accepted.

Intellectual Property:

Materials used in this course, including lectures, notes, slides, handouts, etc. reflect the intellectual work and property of the professor (and other credited individuals) and may only be used for the student's personal academic use. These materials may not be distributed outside of the classroom community without the professor's express written permission. Course materials may not be posted online or distributed to free or for-profit entities outside of the classroom community. Violation of this policy may result in a failing grade in the class and expose the student to potential legal action.

Email Use:

Email is the preferred method of communication for this course. I generally reply to messages that require a response (and not all messages require or merit a response from the professor!) within two business days.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Your Responsibility:

Students are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus and schedule, as well as any amendments or changes announced by the professor.

Failure to abide by the policies contained in the syllabus and any amendments or changes announced by the professor may result in a failing grade in the course.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

[revised 5 November 2020]

Ten Things About the Tang Dynasty

1. For all practical purposes, the Tang dynasty can be divided into two halves: Pre-An Lushan Rebellion (618–755) and Post-An Lushan Rebellion (755–907)

Pre -755:

2. Centralized government. Strong military. Expansionist. Effective tax system.

3. Implementation of civil service examination system leads to >40% turnover in government posts.

4. Rapid decline of old northern aristocratic families as a result of the exam system.

5. Comparatively higher status of women in Tang society.

6. Reinvigoration of overland trade (Silk Roads) leads to wealth and cosmopolitan spirit.

7. Flourishing of Daoism (Highest Clarity) and Buddhism.

8. A highly literary society. Poetry composition part of the civil service exams.

Post-755:

9. Weak central government. Power in the hands of regional military commanders, many of whom were non-Han. Tax system disrupted. State bankrupted by banditry and payoffs to Uighurs.

10. Anti-foreign and anti-Buddhist sentiments as backlash from An Lushan Rebellion and power struggles between courtiers and eunuchs at the court of weaker late Tang emperors.