

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 3107 : Masterpieces of Chinese Literature (Early China)

Fall 2022 | W 2:00–2:50 PM

Prof. J. Michael Farmer

JO 5.612

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Office Hours: Virtual by appointment.

Course Description:

This readings seminar will focus on major writers and works from early China (ca. 1100 BCE–200 CE). Texts for close reading, discussion, and written analysis include poetry, rhetoric, 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 early 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 class sessions and on discussion boards.

Discussion Board Activity:

In addition to discussing the reading during class 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 3.

Original Posts due 11:59 PM on Mondays.

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

Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

All required course readings will be provided on eLearning.

A large portion of the primary documents we will read in this course are from the following anthology:

Birch, Cyril, ed. *Anthology of Chinese Literature, volume 1*. New York: Grove, 1964; rpt. 1994. ISBN: 0802150381.

WK	Date	Masterpieces of Chinese Literature: Early China
1	8/24	Introduction to the Course Ten Things About Early China Ropp, <i>China in World History</i> , Ch. 1-2
2	8/31	Approaching Chinese Literature <i>Form in Fiction</i> , 141-146; 168-176 <i>How Does a Poem Mean</i> , 1-13
3	9/7	The Book of Songs Selections 1-16
4	9/14	The Book of Songs Selections 16-33
5	9/21	The Songs of Ch'u "Encountering Sorrow"
6	9/28	The Songs of Ch'u From "The Nine Songs"
7	10/5	The Songs of Ch'u "The Summons of the Soul"
8	10/12	Chuang Tz u Three Dialogues
9	10/19	Records of the Grand Historian The Biography of Ching K'o
10	10/26	Rhyme-Prose of the Han Dynasty Chia Yi, "The Owl"
11	11/2	Rhyme-Prose of the Han Dynasty Ssu-ma Hsiang-ju, From "The Shang-lin Park"
12	11/9	Ssu-ma Ch'ien "Letter to Jen An"
13	11/16	Han Poetry "Southeast the Peacock Flies"
14	11/23	Fall Break: No Class
15	11/30	Han Poetry Selections from "Nineteen Old Poems"
16	12/7	On Death Chang Heng, "The Bones of Chuang Tzu"
Final	12/10 - 12/16	x

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 26 July 2022]