

## SYLLABUS

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**LIT 3382.001**

**China in Western Imagination**

Mon/Wed 10:30-11:45am Room GR3.606

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**Professor:**

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Office Hours:

Mon/Wed 9: 30-10: 30 or by appointment

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### Course Description

Since the earliest contacts, China has transfixed the West and played a significant role of the “other” in the formation of Western identity and knowledge about the world. As a result, there have existed a large number of representations of China and its civilization in the writings of Western thinkers, missionaries, merchants, travelers, statesmen, and creative writers. These materials range from the legendary travels of Marco Polo and the thirteenth-century missionaries’ accounts of China, to European intellectuals’ writings on China and literary representations of Chinese society by creative writers. As most such writings represent not so much authentic knowledge of China as the refracted images of the West itself, they are imaginative accounts arising from the desire to represent an alien culture as well as the need for self-reflection. Broadly speaking, this course aims to explore how the West has attempted to understand and represent China from the thirteenth century to modern times, and will examine diverse dimensions of the Western imagination on China, but the major component will cover the literary imagination of Western writers with a special focus on the legends of Marco Polo in historical and literary representations. Thus, the major objective of the course is both to learn about China and to examine the self-image of the West. All readings are in English. No prior knowledge of Chinese language or culture is required.

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### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will read a variety of selected materials, which covers historical, factual, and literary accounts of China by Western thinkers and writers. In reading selected materials, students are encouraged to think why the West has been fascinated with China, how it has represented China in its writings, and to what extent the writings of China represent the self-image of the West. Students are required not only to enjoy reading chosen materials but also to develop skills to think critically, read thoughtfully, and write competently. At the end of the course, students are expected to have an overview of the historical encounter between China and the West, a preliminary understanding of its significance, and some ideas about China’s relation to the West in the age of world-wide globalization.

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### Required Textbooks and Materials

- 1) Jonathan D. Spence, **The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds** (New York: W. W. Norton, 1999).
- 2) Marco Polo, **Travels of Marco Polo** (Harmodsworth: Penguin Classics, 1958).
- 3) Italo Calvino, **Invisible Cities**, trans. William Weaver (New York, Harvest Books, 1978).
- 4) Bertolt Brecht, **The Good Woman of Setzuan** (University of Minnesota Press; 1999).
- 5) Handouts on China by Chinese and Western thinkers and writers.

### Suggested Course Materials:

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- 1) Thomas H.C. Lee, ed., *China and Europe, Images and Influences in Sixteenth to Eighteenth Century* (Hong Kong, 1991).
- 2) Peter Jackson with David Morgan, *The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck: His Journey to the Court of the Great Khan Mongke, 1253-1255*, (London, Hakluyt Society, 1990).
- 3) Frances Wood, *Did Marco Polo Go to China?* (London, 1995).
- 4) Laurence Bergreen, *Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu* (New York: Knopf, 2007).
- 5) Jonathan Spence, *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci* (New York, 1984).
- 6) Paul Rule, *K'ung-tzu or Confucius? The Jesuit Interpretation of Confucianism* (Sydney, 1986).
- 7) Lord George Macartney, *An Embassy to China, Being the Journal Kept by Lord Macartney During his embassy to the Emperor Ch'ien-lung, 1793-1794*, edited by J.L. Cranmer-Bying (London, 1962).
- 8) Oliver Goldsmith, *The citizen of the world; Or, Letters from a Chinese philosopher residing in London to his friends in the East* (London: Folio Society, 1969).
- 9) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, *Writings on China* (Chicago: Open Court, 1994),

### Course Activities and Grading

The course will be conducted through a mixture of lectures, instructor-led discussions, and student-led discussions. Each student is required to lead the discussion of one chosen reading assignments, write a summary of a designated reading assignment, a mini-essay, a mid-term paper, and a final paper. Specific requirements for the summary, mini-essay, and final paper will be given. The grading is based on the following:

1. A summary (with word limit)	5%
2. A mini-essay (two pages)	15%
3. A Mid-term paper (4 pages)	25%
3. A term paper (8-10 pages)	40%
4. Attendance and Participation in discussion	10%
5. Leading the discussion of chosen texts	5%
Total: 100%	

**Note:** Three absences without documented reasons will lower the final grade.

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

**Week 1** 8/25 Session 1: Introduction: China as the “Other” in Western Mind

8/27 Session 2: Spence, “Preface,” “Introduction,” “The Worlds of Marco Polo,” pp. 1-18; Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “Introduction” pp. 7-32

**Week 2** 9/1 Session 1: **Labor Day: No class**

9/3 Session 2: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “Prologue,” “The Middle East,” pp. 33- 73

**Week 3** 9/8 Session 1: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “The Road to Cathay,” “Kublai Khan,” pp. 74-162

9/10 Session 2: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “From Peking to Bengal,” “From Peking to Amoy,”

### Summary due

**Week 4** 9/15 Session 1: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “From China to India,” “India,”

9/17 Session 2: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “The Arabian Sea,” “North Regions and Tartar War,”

**Week 5:** 9/22 Session 1: Marco Polo: *The Travels*: “Epilogue,” “Genealogy of Mongol Imperial House,” “Maps”

9/24 Session 2: Eugene O'Neill, *Marco Millions*.

**Mini-essay due**

**Week 6** 9/29 Session 1: Eugene O'Neill, *Marco Millions*, continued

10/1 Session 2: Spence: “The Catholic Century,” “The Realist Voyages,” pp. 19-61

**Week 7** 10/6 Session 1: Spence: “Deliberate Fictions,” “Matters of Enlightenment,” pp. 62-100

10/ 8 Session 2: Handouts: Leibniz, “Preface to the Novissima Sinica,”

“On the Civil Cult of Confucius,” “Remarks on Chinese Rites and Religion,”

**Week 8** 10/13 Session 1: Handout: Chi Chun-hsiang, “The Orphan of Chao”

10/15 Session 2: Film: Marco Polo

**Mid-term paper due**

**Week 9** 10/20 Session 1: Handouts: Voltaire, *The Orphan of China*.

10/ 22 Session 2: Voltaire, *The Orphan of China*, continued

**Week 10** 10/27 Session 1: Spence, “Women Observers,” “China at Home,” pp. 101-144.

10/29 Session 2: Spence: “The French Exotic,” “An American Exotic,” pp. 145-186

**Week 11** 11/3 Session 1: Spence, “Radical Visions,” “Mystiques of Power,” pp. 187-225

11/5 Session 2: “Genius at Play,” pp. 226-244

**Week 12** 11/10 Session 1: Handout: Ezra Pound’s *Cathay*

11/12 Session 2: Bertolt Brecht, *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, pp. 1-51.

**Week 13** 11/17 Session 1: Bertolt Brecht, *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, pp. 52-106

11/19 Session 2: Read “Preface” to and “Comment” on *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, pp. vii-xxii

**Week 14** 11/24 Session 1: Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, parts 1, 2, and 3

11/26 Session 2: Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, parts 4, 5, and 6

**Brainstorming on How to formulate a thesis for the final paper**

11/27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week 15** 12/1 Session 1: Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, parts 7, 8, and 9

12/3 Session 2: Session 1: A video on China and West

**Discussion: How to write the final paper?**

**Week 16** 12/8 Handout, Franz Kafka, “The Great Wall of China,” Jorge Louis Borges, “The Garden of Forking Paths,”

**12/11 Final paper due at my office:**

### **Course Policies**

A student cannot pass this class without attending each session and completing all of the required work. Absences are excused ONLY with appropriate documentation from a doctor or other health professional, by an authorized UTD official for school events, or by official policy as disclosed below.

This course will be conducted according to strict codes of academic honesty. All cases of plagiarism will be investigated and the deliberate instances reported to the Dean of Students. Penalties for deliberate cheating may include failing the assignment in question, failing the course, or suspension and expulsion from the University. Students are expected to know the University's policies and procedures on such matters, as well as those governing student services, conduct, and obligations.

**All cell phones, game devices, and other electronic equipment MUST be turned off during class.**

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### **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. Each student and student organization is responsible for knowing the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

UTD administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

### **Email Use**

UTD recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UTD email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at UTD provides a method for students to have their UTD mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

UTD has set deadlines for withdrawal from any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per UTD policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22 PO Box 830688. Richardson, Texas 75083-0688. (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with

mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

UTD will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

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