

## SYLLABUS

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**LIT 3312.002**

**Classical Chinese Fiction**

Tu/Th 10:00-11:15pm Room SOM2.107

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**Professor:**

**Dr. Ming Dong Gu**

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

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### Course Description

This course introduces students to traditional Chinese fiction. It consists of three related areas: 1) a general survey of the historical development of Chinese fiction; 2) readings of representative Chinese fictional works; 3) an examination of Chinese theories of fiction. Its multiple aims include: 1) to offer students an opportunity to have a glimpse into the structure and operations of traditional Chinese society through reading chosen fictional works; 2) to acquire basic knowledge of traditional Chinese life and learn about their impact upon modern Chinese society; and 3) to appreciate Chinese narrative art against the background of Western fiction. As in any literature course, special attention will be given to training students to read carefully and thoughtfully. Since students from Western backgrounds have already read a considerable amount of Western fiction, they are encouraged to adopt a comparative approach and to bring their knowledge of Western culture and literature to bear on the study of this course. All readings are in English. No prior knowledge of Chinese language and culture is required.

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### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will read a variety of works of classical Chinese fiction including stories, novellas, and a novel, as well as a book on the historical development of Chinese fiction and its narrative theory. In reading both fictional works and theoretical treatises, students are encouraged to see the inherent relationships among life, society, and fictional works, and to explore how Chinese fiction is similar to and different from Western fiction in its rise, origin, function, conception, creation, and relations to society and ways of life. Students are required not only to read chosen fictional works 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 development of Chinese fiction, acquire an in-depth insight into traditional Chinese society, and improve their basic skills to read, appreciate, and critically analyze fictional works.

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### Required Textbooks and Materials

- 1) Y.W. Ma and Joseph S.M. Lau, eds., *Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations*.
- 2) Cao Xueqin, *The Story of the Stone*, vol 1, translated by David Hawkes (Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin Books).
- 3) Some electronic handouts.

### Suggested Course Materials:

1. Patrick Hannan. *The Chinese Short Story* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1973).

2. \_\_\_\_\_. *The Chinese Vernacular Story* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981).
3. Andrew Plaks, *Archetype and Allegory in the "Dream of the Red Chamber"* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976)
4. Andrew Plaks, ed., *Chinese Narrative: Critical and Theoretical Essays* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1977).
5. Ming Dong Gu, *Chinese Theories of Fiction: A Non-Western Narrative System* (State University of New York Press, 2006).

## Course Activities and Grading

The course will be conducted through a mixture of lectures, instructor-led discussions, and student presentations. Regular attendance and participation in the classroom activities are required of all students. Each student is required to give three presentations with summaries, write two guided short essays, and take a final take-home examination. Specific requirements for presentations, summaries, and essays will be given. The grading is based on the following:

1) Three presentations with summaries	15%
2) First guided essay	20%
3) Second guided essay	20%
4) Final take-home examination	35%
5) Attendance and Participation in discussion	10%
Total: 100%	

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

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

### Week 1 Preliminaries for the Course

1/13 Session 1: Introduction to the course

1/15 Session 2: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "From Myth to Legends," pp. 393-400.

Ma and Lau, "Explanations to Traditional Chinese Stories," pp. xii-xxiv

**Pre-Tang Tales:** Ma and Lau, "The Biography of Yu Jiang," p. 41-42; "Scholar T'an," pp. 387; "Han P'ing and His Wife," p. 251; "Hsu Chu-po Visits His Friend," p. 3;

### Week 2

1/20 Session 1: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "Tales of Men and of the Supernatural During the Six Dynasties Period," pp. 400-406.

Ma and Lau, "Liu Ling," p. 557; "Prince Tan of Yen," p. 43; "Ho Po," p. 558

1/22 Session 2: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "The Prose Romance of the Tang Dynasties," pp. 407-414.

**Tang Stories** - Read Ma and Lau: "Miss Jen," p. 339; "The World inside a Pillow," p. 435; "The Story of Ying Ying," p. 139; "The Courtesan Li Wa," p. 163;

### Week 3

1/27 Session 1: Ma and Lau, "Feng Yen," p. 50; "Scholar Ts'ui," p. 413; "Tu Tzu-ch'un," p. 416; The Legendary Marriage at Tung-t'ing," p. 346;

1/29 Session 2: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read Sections 5-6, pp. 425-443.

Ma and Lau, "Scholar Chang," p. 439; "Wu-shuang the Peerless," p. 52; "In Search of a Heart," p. 427;

#### **Week 4**

2/3 Session 1: Handout, Gu, ch. 1, "Chinese Notions of Fiction", pp. 17-31.

Ma and Lau: "The Tragedy of Pu Fei-yen," p. 172; "The Poetess Yu Hsuan-chi," p. 305; "The Great Maodgalyayana Rescues His Mother from Hell," p. 441;

2/5 Session 2: "The Fake Knight-Errant," p. 559; "Empress Chao Fei-yen," p. 307; "The Wit of the Master Thief," p. 553; "Yang Wen, the Road-Blocking Tiger," p. 85;

**First Guided Essay due**

#### **Week 5:**

2/10 Session 1: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "Sung Stories and Their Influence," pp. 414-424.

**Sung and Yuan Stories**- Ma and Lau: "Sung the Fourth Raises Hell with Tight-wad Chang," p. 535; "Artisan Ts'ui and his Ghost Wife," p. 252; "A Mangy Toaist Exorcises Ghosts," p. 388; "Nieh Yi-tao the Magistrate," p. 465

2/12 Session 2: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "The Two Main Trends in Ming Novels," pp. 425-432.

**Ming Stories**: "Eternal Prisoner under the Thunder Peak Pagoda," p. 335; "The Boot That Reveals the Culprit," p. 598; "The Jest That Leads to Disaster," p. 467;

#### **Week 6**

2/17 Session 1: Read Gu, ch. 2, "The Nature of Chinese Fiction," pp. 43-61.

Ma and Lau, "The Golden Phoenix Hairpin," p. 400; "Han Wu-niang Sells Her Charms at the New Bridge Market," p. 312;

2/19 Session 2: Ma and Lau: "The Pearl Shirt Reencountered," p. 264; "Wu Pao-an Ransoms his Friend," p. 4; "Old Servant Hsu," p. 19;

#### **Week 7**

2/24 Session 1: Ma and Lau, "Magistrate T'eng and the Case of the Inheritance," p. 485; "The Sung Founder Escorts Ching-niang One Thousand Li," p. 58; "Tu Shi-niang Sinks the Jewel Box in Anger," p. 146;

2/26 Session 2: "The Jade-faced Cat," p. 456; "The Lion Cub Lane," p. 469; "The Case of the Dead Infant," p. 122;

#### **Week 8**

3/3 Session 1: Gu, ch. 4, "The Poetic Nature of Chinese Fiction," pp. 97-102.

Ma and Lau, "The Oil Peddler Courts the Courtesan," p. 177; "The Couple Bound in Life and Death," p. 209;

3/5 Session 2: : Ma and Lau, "A Taste of Immortality," p. 420; "The Sham Commander reclaims His Beauty," p. 97; "The Hen-pecked Judge Who Loses a Governorship," p. 325

#### **Week 9**

3/10 Session 1: Lu Hsun, "The Historical Development of Chinese Fiction," handout, Read "Four Schools of Fiction in the Ch'ing Dynasty and Their Later Development," pp. 432-443.

**Ch'ing Stories**: Ma and Lau, "The Strong Kid of the Ch'inhuai Region," p. 110; "The Taoist Priest of the Lao Mountains," p. 429; "The Chung-shan Wolf," p. 117;

3/12 Session 2: Ma and Lau, "Nieh Hsiao-ch'ien," p. 404; "The Lady Knight-errant," p. 77; "Red Jade," p. 379; "The Monk's Magic," p. 431;

**Week 10 3/16—3/20 Spring Break:**

**Week 11**

3/24 Session 1: Ma and Lau, “Yen-chih,” p. 524; “The Shansi Mercant,” p. 135;  
“The Leper Girl,” p. 225; “The Broken Hairpin,” p. 234

**Second Guided Essay due**

3/26 Session 2: **Ch’ing Novel**: *The Story of the Stone*, “Introduction,” and chs. 1-3

**Week 12**

3/31 Session 1: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 4-6; “Appendix, pp. 527-534

4/2 Session 2: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 7-9

**Week 13**

4/7 Session 1: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 10-12

4/9 Session 2: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 13-15

**Week 14**

4/14 Session 1: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 16-18

4/16 Session 2: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 19-21

**Week 15**

4/21 Session 1: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 22-24

4/23 Session 2: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 25-26

**Week 16**

4/28 Session 1: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 97-98 (Handouts)

4/30 Session 2: *The Story of the Stone*, chs. 119-120 (handouts)

Review for the final take-home examination

**5/7 Final Take-home Examination due in my office JO4.130**

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**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.***