

HITO 87 Ming China in Short Stories

Fall 2011

H & SS 3086, Wednesdays 10-11

Professor Schneewind, sschneewind@ucsd.edu.

The Ming empire lasted from 1368 to 1644. We will read and discuss short stories from the late Ming period (early 1600s) (in English translation, of course). Peopled by gods, ghosts, and men and women of all social classes, these stories reveal a world of family loyalty and conflict; sex and chastity; violence, and Confucian study; Buddhist and Daoist religious practice; high ideals, crime, and corruption.

Textbook, at the Campus Bookstore.

Feng Menglong, *Stories Old and New*, orig. 1620. Translated by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000) ISBN 0-295-97844-9

Read the story before class and come in ready to talk about it. Bring questions about what puzzled you, and be able to: recount the plot, comment on what interests you, and make connections with other stories or what we talked about in class earlier. If miss class, e-mail me a 1-2-page paper.

October 5: #1, Jiang Xingge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt

October 12: #11, Zhao Bosheng Meets with Emperor Renzong in a Teahouse

October 19: #14, Chen Xiyi Rejects Four Appointments from the Imperial Court

October 26: # 10, Magistrate Teng Settles the Case of Inheritance with Ghostly Cleverness

November 2: # 26, Shen Xiu Causes Seven Deaths with One Bird

November 9: # 4, Ruan San Redeems His Debt in Leisurely Clouds Nunnery

November 16: # 38, Ren the Filial Son with a Fiery Disposition Becomes a God

November 30: #16, The Chicken-and-Millet Dinner for Fan Juqing, Friend in Life and Death and #27, Jin Yunu Beats the Heartless Man