

**Fall 2012**  
HIEA 171/271  
**SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN PRE-MODERN CHINA**

Weijing Lu  
Thursday 2:00-4:50 HSS 3086  
Office: HSS 3044

Office hours: Tu.2:00-3:00, Th.4:50-5:50  
w1lu@ucsd.edu  
Office phone: 822-0586

This course explores Chinese society and culture through the reading and discussion of classical texts and masterpieces in Chinese history. Readings range from philosophical writings and history to short stories, novels, to plays. These works both reflected and shaped the society and culture of China at various historical stages, and are conceived today as a key part of China's cultural heritage. Our discussions will focus on the meanings that are embodied in the texts (personal, social, cultural, and intellectual), as well as the historical contexts within which these texts were produced. As the course moves chronologically from one period to the next, we will examine how new themes and new genres evolved, and how values and ideas differed, developed, or shifted over the course of history. In doing so, we will also develop the skills to appreciate the beauty of Chinese literature.

***Readings:\****

Deborah Sommer ed., *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).  
Arthur Waley trans., *The Book of Songs*. (New York: Grove Press, 1996).  
Shen Fu, *Six Records of A Floating Life* (Penguin Classics, 1983).  
Feng Menglong, *Stories from A Ming Collection: The Art of Chinese Storyteller* (New York: Grove Press, 1958).  
Cao Xueqin, *The Story of the Stone*. (Penguin Classics, 1973).  
Conrad Schirokauer. *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization*. (1991) (optional)

\* Graduate students will read additional materials indicated in weekly assignments.

Four additional documents have been placed on electronic reserve in the SSH library. To view (download or photocopy) the materials on campus, log on to the UCSD library website <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/>, click on "Reserves," and follow the instructions there (password **w1171**). If you need to access the e-reserve materials off campus, you may need to set up a proxy account. Instructions are available at the circulation desk of the SSH library.

All the required reading is on reserve in SSH library.

## ***Requirements***

1) Regular attendance and active participation in all seminar discussions, including leadership of discussion for one session and a presentation on your final paper at the end of the quarter, are required. The students leading discussion for a given date must consult with the instructor prior to the class to work out the details/questions for a stimulating session. I will be assisting you but you are expected to exercise fully your leadership.  
40%

2) Choose any six weeks from week 2 through 8 to bring to class a 2 page, typed, double-spaced reading report (6 in total) that (1) summarizes the theme(s) of the week's primary source reading and (2) discusses one or more aspects of the readings that are most interesting or provocative to you, cite evidence from the texts to support your view. One of the ways to create a thoughtful précis is comparison—you can do so by comparing the readings from earlier sessions or knowledge that you have acquired in other courses. Turn it in before the session begins. (5points each, 30%)

3) A research paper on a topic approved by the instructor. Choose a topic that interests you and that you have adequate primary sources to work with. Decide on your potential topic no later than the seventh week of the quarter. Each student will meet with the instructor individually to discuss his/her paper topic during weeks seven and eight. The sources for the paper should be drawn mainly from course readings. Additional research, including on-line research, may be conducted to incorporate related scholarships on the topic into your work. Talk to the instructor if you plan to do so. Target length: 10-12 pages for undergraduate students; 15-20 papers for graduate students. 30%

## **Academic Honesty**

Your work in this class is expected to be the product of your own efforts. Plagiarism in writing assignments (i.e., copying from articles, books, internet papers, and other students' work, without specifically acknowledging the source) will not be tolerated and will lead to serious consequences. For more information on the UCSD policy on academic dishonesty, visit: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>.

## ***Schedule of seminars/topics/readings:***

9/27 Introduction  
Reading: *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization* (optional).

Week 1, 10/4 The intellectual foundation: philosophies (Zhou dynasty)  
Reading: "Confucius and his disciples," in *Chinese Religion*: 21-26, 41-48, 55-70.  
Competing discourses: *Chinese Religion*: 71-83; document #1.  
*Graduate students: Chinese Religion*: 3-16, 63-70.

- Week 2, 10/11 Daily life in early China: poetry (Zhou dynasty)  
 Reading: *The Book of Songs*, 1-286.  
*Graduate students: entire*
- Week 3, 10/18 Writing History: *Shiji* (Han dynasty)  
 Reading: Selections from *Records of the Grand Historian*  
 (Document #2 and #3).
- Week 4, 10/25 Religion (Six dynasties through the Ming)  
 Reading: *Chinese Religion*, 119-135, 155-159; 169-175. Document  
 #4 and #5.
- Week 5, 11/1 Popular culture: Short stories (Ming dynasty)  
 Reading: *Chinese religion*, 105-112.  
*Stories from A Ming Collection*, 1-149.  
*Graduate students: entire*
- Week 6, 11/8 Love, duty, and esthetics: A memoir (Qing dynasty)  
 Reading: *Six Records*  
*Graduate students: begin The Story of the Stone*
- Week 7, 11/15 Politics, femininity, and masculinity: *Hongloumeng* (Qing dynasty)  
 Reading: *The Story of the Stone*(vol. 1)  
*Graduate students: finish The Story of the Stone*
- Week 8, 11/22 No class
- Week 9, 11/29 **Individual meeting**
- Week 10, 12/6 Research paper presentation

Research paper due at 10:00am, Friday 12/14. Please 1) submit a copy of the paper electronically (as an email attachment to my address, [w1lu@ucsd.edu](mailto:w1lu@ucsd.edu)), and 2) place a hard copy of the paper in the envelope by my office door (Room 3044, HSS building).

**HIEA171 e-reserves materials:**

1. "Legalist Teachings." In Patricia Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp. 32-37.
2. "Sima Qian." In Stephen Owen ed. *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911* (W.W. Norton & Company, 1996), pp. 135-154.
3. Selections from *Shiji*. In Burton Watson trans. Ssu-ma Ch'ien [Sima Qian], *Records of the Grand Historian of China* (Columbia University Press, 1993), Vol. II, pp. 3-8, 413-437, 452-467.

4. "The World in a Pillow." In John Minford and Joseph S. M. Law eds. *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations*, pp. 1020-1032.
5. Selections from Lo Kuan-chung, *Three Kingdoms: China's Epic Drama* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1976), pp. 3-13, 236-248.