

Fall 2009
HIEA 171
SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN PRE-MODERN CHINA

Professor Weijing Lu
Monday 1:00-3:50 HSS 3086
Office: HSS 3044

Office hours: Monday 10:00-11:00, W12:00-1:00
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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: Anthology of Sources*. (1995)
Arthur Waley trans. *The Book of Songs*. (1960)
Shen Fu. *Six Records of A Floating Life*. (1983)
Feng Menglong. *Stories from A Ming Collection: The Art of Chinese Storyteller*. (1958)
Cao Xueqin. *The Story of the Stone*. (vol.1) (1973)
Conrad Schirokauer. *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization*. (1991) (optional)

Three 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 "Course Reserves," then on "Students," and follow the instructions there. 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) 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 semester. The student 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—bring in reading materials from earlier sessions or any 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 enough primary sources to work with. Decide on your potential topic no later than the beginning of the seventh week of the quarter. The sources for the paper should be drawn mainly from class readings— additional research, including on-line research, may be conducted to incorporate related scholarships on the topic into your work. Target length: 12 pages. 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://www-Senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>; for History department guidelines see <http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm>

Schedule of seminars/topics/readings:

Week 1, 9/28 Introduction: Sources and issues

Reading: *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization* (optional).

Week 2, 10/5 The intellectual foundation: Philosophy (Zhou dynasty)

Reading: "Confucius and his disciples," in *Chinese Religion*: 21-26, 31-48, 55-70.

Competing discourses: *Chinese Religion*: 71-75; document #1.

Week 3, 10/12 Reconstructing daily life through poetry: *The Book of Songs* (Zhou dynasty)

Reading: *The Book of Songs*

Week 4, 10/19 Critiquing the past and present: Writing History (Han dynasty)

Reading: Document #2 and #3.

Week 5, 10/26 The divine world: religions

Reading: *Chinese Religion* pp. 119-135, 155-159; 169-175, 211-223; 240-265.

Week 6, 11/2 Late Imperial society: Short stories (Ming dynasty)

Reading: *Chinese religion* pp. 105-112.
Stories from A Ming Collection

Week 7, 11/9 Family and Marriage: A memoir (Qing dynasty)

Reading: *Six Records*

Week 8, 11/16 The eighteenth-century: A Novel (Qing dynasty)

Reading: *The Story of the Stone* (Vol. 1)

Week 9, 11/23 Individual meeting with instructor

Week 10, 11/30 Research paper presentation

Final version of the paper DUE noon, Tuesday 12/8. Please 1) submit a copy of the paper electronically (as an email attachment to my address, wllu@ucsde.du), 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.