Course Description
This seminar examines major Chinese works from the pre-Qin period to the Yuan dynasty (1271–1368). The course will familiarize students with a wide variety of genres and themes as well as their historical contexts and developments. We will pay attention to the concept of “literature,” or wenxue. Was there a clear-cut definition of “literature” in pre-modern China? What could be considered a literary work at the time? And how do the readings constitute or defy our understanding of “literature” as shaped during the “modern” era? In class, we will tackle these issues. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. No background in Chinese language or literature is required. Students with reading ability in classical Chinese can read the texts in the original.

Requirements and Grades:
1. Class participation – 20%
2. Classroom presentation – 20%
3. Canvas postings – 25%
4. Final research paper – 35% (undergraduate 8 pages; graduate 12 pages)

Classroom presentation and discussion: In each session, we need one student presenter. Each presenter will give a 20-minute presentation, followed by other students’ response. The presenter should raise discussion questions based on primary and secondary reading materials. These questions should address main issues in the readings. Every student should respond to these questions in class.

Canvas postings: Each student should write one or two paragraphs that reflect your own understanding of the readings. Please post your postings before 7 PM on Sunday.

Final research paper: Every student should choose a topic for your final paper. You should engage in intensive close readings of the texts we read in class and produce a research paper with a clear argument. When writing the paper, please combine both the primary and secondary sources. The paper should contain footnotes and a bibliography according to the MLA Style Manual or Chicago Manual of Style. Please submit an electronic copy via e-mail.

Statement on Academic Integrity
As a member of Rutgers community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. Your paper should be your own original work. If you want to use words or ideas from other sources, make sure you identified the original sources and provide footnotes or
parentheses. If you cite from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short, please place it in quotation marks; if you quote a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. Any work that has been submitted for credit in another course is generally not allowed to be submitted in this course unless you have the permission from your instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to talk to your instructor after class or during office hours.

**Required Texts**

All readings can be found on Canvas.

**Schedule**

<table>
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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>9/9 Introduction</th>
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| Week 2 | 9/16 *Classic of Poetry (Shijing)*  
“The Ospreys Cry”  

| Week 3 | 9/23 *The Lyrics of Chu (Chuci)*  
*How to Read Chinese Poetry*, 38–54  
“The Lord of the Xiang River,”  
“The Lady of the Xiang River,”  
“On Encountering Trouble.”  

*An Anthology of Chinese Literature*  
Cao Zhi, “The Goddess of the Luo.”  

| Week 4 | 9/23 *The Lyrics of Chu (Chuci)*  
*How to Read Chinese Poetry*, 38–54  
“The Lord of the Xiang River,”  
“The Lady of the Xiang River,”  
“On Encountering Trouble.”  

*An Anthology of Chinese Literature*  
Cao Zhi, “The Goddess of the Luo.”  
9/30 Selections from The Records of the Grand Historian, or Shiji
An Anthology of Chinese Literature,
“The Biography of Bo Yi and Shu Qi, 142–145;
Burton Watson, introduction to The Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty, ix-xx;
introduction to The Records of the Grand Historian: Han Dynasty I, xv-xx.

Week 5
10/7 Yue-fu Poetry
“Heaven Above,”
“The One I Love,”
“South of the Walls We Fought,”
“East of Ping-ling,”
“Prelude: White Swans in Pairs,”
“Cocks Crow,”
“Meeting,”
“Chang-an Has Narrow Alleys,”
“Zi-ye Songs,”
“The Zi-ye Songs of the Four Seasons,”
“Qi-yu Songs,”
“Song of the Prince of Lang-ya,”
“The Ballad of Mu-lan,”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pL6w2vierc,
“Breaking the Branches of Willows.”

Week 6
10/14 Zhuangzi, Tao Qian, and Xie Lingyun

How to Read Chinese Poetry, 121–140.

Wendy Swartz, Reading Philosophy, Writing Poetry: Intertextual Modes of Making Meaning in Early Medieval China, Harvard University Asia Center, 2018, Chapters 5 & 6, 184–258.


Week 7
10/21 Buddhist Narratives


**Week 8**

10/28 **High Tang Poets: Wang Wei, Li Bai, and Du Fu**

How to Read Chinese Poetry,
An Anthology of Chinese Literature, 371–387

How to Read Chinese Poetry,

How to Read Chinese Poetry,


**Week 9**

11/4 **Mid-Tang Poets: Bai (Bo) Juyi, Han Yu, and Meng Jiao**

An Anthology of Chinese Literature,
Bai Juyi: “Song of Lasting Pain,” 442–447; Chen Hong, “An Account to Go with the ‘Song of Lasting Pain’,,” 448–452;
Han Yu, “Autumn Thoughts,” 484; “Visiting the Temple of Mount Heng, Then Spending the Night at the Buddhist Monastery: I Wrote This on the Gate Tower,” 485; “Written Playfully to Zhang Ji,” 487; “Mountain Stones,” 488.


**Week 10**

11/11 **Late Tang Poets: Li He and Li Shangyin**

An Anthology of Chinese Literature,
Li He, “Song of an Arrowhead from the Battlefield of Chang-ping,” 489; “Little Su’s Tomb,” 490; “Dream of Heaven,” 491; “Song of a Young Nobleman at the End of Night,” 491; “Release from Melancholy: Song (written under the flowers),” 491; 

How to Read Chinese Poetry,


A chapter from Stephen Owen, The Late Tang: Chinese Poetry of the Mid-Ninth Century (827–860), (Harvard University Asia Center, 2006)

Week 11
11/18 Tang Tales


Week 12
11/25 Song Lyrics in the Five Dynasties and the Song Dynasty
How to Read Chinese Poetry, 245–261.


An Anthology of Chinese Literature,

Li Qing-zhao, “Like a Dream,” 580; “to ‘Note After Note’,” 581; “to ‘Southern Song’,” 581; “to ‘Free-Spirited Fisherman’,” 582; “Epilogue to Records on Metal and Stone,” 591–596.

A chapter from Ronald Egan’s The Burden of Female Talent: The Poet Li Qingzhao and Her History in China.

Week 13
12/2 Song Dynasty Poetry and Prose
How to Read Chinese Poetry, 308–326.

An Anthology of Chinese Literature,


An Anthology of Chinese Literature, 638–649;


Week 14
12/9 Yuan Dynasty Qu Poetry and Play; Student Presentation of Final Paper Topic

Guan Hanqing, “Moving Heaven and Shaking Earth: The Injustice to Dou E.”

Final Paper Due 12/20