Syllabus

Course Description: Literary study of Chinese classical poetry and poetics from early times to the end of
the nineteenth century, with emphasis on major Chinese poets and Chinese poetic criticism on
poetry as a literary genre.

Course Objectives:
1. To introduce students to the development, periods, and classification of Chinese poetry as well as the
   major poets and their representative writings
2. To help students develop the ability to understand, appreciate, and analyze Chinese poetry
3. To discuss the position of Chinese poetry in Chinese literature and its contributions to world literature
   and comparative literature
4. To study various theories about the nature of poetry and criticism on important aspects of Chinese
   poetry and major Chinese poets

Required Textbooks:
1. *Readings in Classical Chinese Literature* (RCCL) 中国古典文学选读, Rutgers Chinese Program,
   New Brunswick, N.J., revised edition, 1999. This book can be downloaded for free from the course
   sakai site
   This book is available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (Gateway Transit
   Building, 100 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901).
3. Liu Dajie 劉大杰. *Zhongguo wenxue fazhan shi* 中國文學發展史. 3 vols. Hong Kong: Sanlian,

Recommended Textbooks:
   This book is available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (Gateway Transit
   Building, 100 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901).
   Sound files of poems are available for free at: [http://www.cup.columbia.edu/static/cai-sound-
   files-wkbk](http://www.cup.columbia.edu/static/cai-sound-files-wkbk)


**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance and participation in class discussion
2. Oral report on a topic included in the syllabus
3. A research term paper (15-20 pages) based on the oral report
4. Final Examination

**Semester Schedule**


9/9 Introduction: Chinese Language, Literature, and Poetry

9/16 Earliest Chinese Poetry I: *Shi Jing* 詩經 (The Book of Poetry)
   Origin, Content, Form, and Influence
   Readings: RCCL pp. 2-3; *How to Read Chinese Poetry* pp. 13-35; Yu, *Imagery* pp. 44-83; Liu, *Fazhan shi* pp. 27-60; Luo, *Zhongguo gudai wenxue*, pp. 54-84

9/23 Earliest Chinese Poetry II: *Chu Ci* 楚辭 (The Songs of the South)
   Origin, Content, Form, and Representative Poets

9/30 The *Yue Fu* 樂府 (the Music Bureau Poetry) of the Han Dynasty
   Origin, Content, Form, and Influence

10/7 Five-Word and Seven-Word Poetry (*Wu yan shi* 五言詩 and *Qi yan shi* 七言詩)
   Form, Content, and Representative Poems

10/14 Chinese Landscape Poetry (*Shanshui shi* 山水詩) and the *Beginnings of Chinese Poetic Criticism*
   Form, Content, and Representative Poets
10/21 The Early Period of Tang Poetry in Modern Style 近體詩:
The Form of lushi 律詩 and jueju 絕句
Representative Poets: Wang Bo 王勃, Chen Zi-ang 陳子昂, Wang Wei 王維

10/28 The Golden Period of Tang Poetry in the Modern Style I:
Representative Poet: Li Bai 李白
Readings: RCCL pp. 52-53; Liu, Fazhan shi vol. 2 pp. 95-107; Owen, Anthology pp. 397-404; Varsano, Banished Immortal pp. 1-32; Luo, Zhongguo gudai wenxue, vol. 2, pp. 53-65

11/4 The Golden Period of Tang Poetry in the Modern Style II:
Representative Poet: Du Fu 杜甫

11/11 The Middle Period of Tang Poetry in Modern Style:
Representative Poet: Bai Juyi 白居易 and Yuan Zhen 元稹

11/18 The Late Period of Tang Poetry in Modern Style and Criticism of Tang Poetry
Representative Poets: Li He 李賀, Li Shangyin 李商隱
Readings: RCCL pp. 58; Owen, Anthology pp. 489-496, 510-517; Liu, Fazhan shi vol. 2 pp. 146-152; Hawkes, Late T'ang, 89-119; Li, Li Shang-yin pp. 3-34; Luo, Zhongguo gudai wenxue, vol. 2, 127-147; Yan Yu, Canglang shihua; Wang and Gu, Zhongguo wenxue piping shi, pp. 368-380

11/25 The Lyric Poetry from Late Tang to Northern Song
Origin, Form, and Representative Poets: Wei Zhuang 韋莊, Li Yu 李煜, Su Shi 蘇軾

Thanksgiving Recess

12/2 The Lyric Poetry of Southern Song and Further Discussion of Poetic Criticism
Form, Content, and Representative Poets: Li Qingzhao 李清照, Lu You 陸游, Xin Qiji 辛棄疾, Jiang Kui 姜夔
Readings: RCCL pp. 73-74; Owen, Anthology pp. 580-587, 695-698; Liu, Fazhan shi vol. 2 pp. 257-284; Lin, Chiang K'uei pp. 94-141; Wang Guowei, Renjian cihua; Tu, Poetic Remarks in the Human World

12/9 The Music Lyrics in Chinese Drama of the Yuan Period
Form, Content, and Representative Poets: Guan Hanqing 關漢卿, Ma Zhiyuan 馬致遠, Bai Pu 白樸
Readings: RCCL pp. 82; How to Read Chinese Poetry pp. 329-353; Liu, Fazhan shi vol. 3 pp. 1-24
Reference Material:


Luo Zongqiang 罗宗强, ed. *Zhongguo gadai wenxue fazhan shi* 中国古代文学发展史, 3 vols.


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