FLCN 3450: Topics in Chinese Literature and Culture

Instructor: Carolyn FitzGerald

TTh 3:00-4:30 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10-11 a.m. or by appointment

Course Objectives:

This course covers topics in Chinese philosophy, cultural history, literature, and visual culture. Its main task will be the sustained and critical study of a number of significant and representative works in order to present some major themes of the distinct and complex civilizations of China. In spite of inner tensions, this is a cultural tradition that can be seen as a highly integrated system composed of mutually reinforcing parts. Toward the end of the term we will observe the system’s collapse as it struggles to adapt to the modern world, and consider how our themes continue, persist, or change.

Course Prerequisite: None

Requirements:

1. There will be a final exam.
2. Students are required to write 3 papers. Each paper must be a minimum of 5 pages and students will choose their topics from a list of recommended paper topics.
3. At the beginning of each class, you must hand in a brief book review of that day’s readings to demonstrate that you have prepared for class and discussion. These will be graded on a “credit/no credit” basis. PLEASE INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READINGS IN EACH REPORT.
4. Your grade will be based on a combination of the following: your final exam (30%); your class attendance (15%); and your book reviews (10%) handed in at each class; papers (15% each for a total of 45%)

Course Policies:

• Class attendance is required.
• Academic Honesty: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Tiger Cub.
• Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting during the first week of class. Please bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)
• Students may withdraw (with a W on their transcript) prior to midsemester.
• Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.
• The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.
• All readings are to be completed before coming to class.

Required Textbooks:

Lu Hsun, *Selected Stories of Lu Hsun*

Schedule of Classes and Readings:

Week 1  Introduction to the Course

Week 2  The Chinese Language
Reader 1 (A & B), Chronology of Chinese Dynasties and selection from Jerry Norman, *Chinese.*

Week 3  Orientation in Early Chinese Culture: Some Myths Reconsidered
Schirokauer and Brown, *Brief History*, pp. 24-49.

Week 4  Mengzi’s Theory of Human Nature & Self-cultivation
Schirokauer and Brown, *Brief History*, pp. 71-80.

Week 5  Zhuangzi on Skepticism and Relativism

First Short Paper Due

Week 6  Han Feizi and the Art of Persuasion in Ancient China

Week 7  Recurring Themes in Chinese Religiosity: The Adoption of Buddhism
Reader 2 (A, B, & C), selections from Christian Jochim, and Y.W Ma & Joseph Lau
Schirokauer and Brown, *Brief History*, pp. 84-105.
Week 8   Images and Imagination: Classical Poetry
Reader 3 (A), (selections of poems and from Eliot Weinberger & Octavio Paz,
_Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei_

Week 9   Expressive Theories and Poetic Practice
Reader 3 (B)
Schirokauer and Brown, _Brief History_, pp. 136-67.

Week 10  Love and Marriage in Painting
Yuanming Comes Home” and “Chinese Painting and Poetry Notes”)

**Second Short Paper Due**

Week 11  Landscape Painting
Reader 4 (C&D) (Richard Edwards, “The World Around the Chinese Artist”)

Week 12  Classical Drama: From the Pleasure Quarters to the Scholar’s Study to Lincoln
Center (2): The Peony Pavilion Goes to Lincoln Center
Reader 7 (B & C).
Schirokauer and Brown, _Brief History_, pp. 258-93.

Week 13  Lu Xun (1881-1936) and Modern Chinese Literature
Lu Hsun, _Selected Stories of Lu Hsun_ (especially “Preface to the first collection
of short stories ‘Call to Arms,’” “A Madman’s Diary,” “My Old Home,” and
“The New Year’s Sacrifice”). [Fewer than originally listed]
Schirokauer and Brown, _Brief History_, pp. 296-320.

Week 14  Gender, Ethnicity and Popular Entertainment
Reader 9A: Mao Zedong, “Talks at the Yan’an Forum on Literature and Art and
Reader 9B: Zhao Shuli, “The Marriage of Young Blackie”)
Schirokauer and Brown, _Brief History_, pp. 326-68.

**Third Short Paper Due**

Week 15  From the Cultural Revolution to Post-socialist China
Reader 10: Han Shaogong, “The Homecoming” and Wang Zheng, “Call me
‘Qingnian’ but not ‘Funü’: A Maoist Youth in Retrospect”

**Final Exam**  Given at the University set time and date