

Course Outline: Introduction to Chinese Literature

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND LINGUISTICS

Course Code

AP/CH 2200 6.0 Introduction to Chinese Literature

Course Description

This course surveys the major genres of Chinese literature from its ancient origins to the present. It examines selected works in relation to the evolution of the literary tradition within their historical and cultural context. While philosophical classics and early historical writings will be introduced, the emphasis will be on poetry and fiction, as well as critical approaches to these genres.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: LECT

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Become familiar with representative Chinese writers and their major works from the past 2,500 years.
- Acquire foundational knowledge of the characteristics and stylistic features of various literary genres, including poetry, biography, prose, and fiction.
- Understand the cultural, religious, and historical contexts in which the literature was produced.
- Develop a critical appreciation of the historical development of Chinese literature.

Course Materials

Text:

Weekly lecture

examples of sample course materials assigned weekly

Classical Poetry



中国古典诗歌

Poetry



- ❧ Northrop Frye (*The Harper Handbook to Literature*) defines poetry as:
- ❧ A form of literature
- ❧ Characterized by imaginative and intense language, usually in verse
- ❧ A fundamental way of expressing human emotion and thought

Classical Poetry



- ❧ Chinese classical poetry refers to premodern poetry written in the classical form of the Chinese language.
- ❧ Predominantly lyrical.
- ❧ Narrative poems exist, but they never reached the length of Western epics.
- ❧ Poetry was regarded as the ideal medium for expressing poets' deepest feelings and most profound thoughts.

Classical Poetry



- ❧ Major Chinese poetic genres:
- ❧ Ancient-style verse 古诗;
- ❧ Recent-style verse 今体诗,
 - * Regular verse 律诗
 - * Quatrain 绝句
 - * Multiple regulated verse 排律;
- ❧ Lyrics/lyric meters 词
- ❧ Nondramatic songs 散曲。

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Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

[Provide a breakdown of course components into individual assessments, including the weight of each assessment and anticipated date held or due date. Include whether assessments are held in-person or online or if they might be held outside of class time (e.g. evenings or weekends)]

| Assessment | Weight | Mode | Tentative Deadline |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----------|---|
| Class participation & contribution | 15% | In-person | The end of the course |
| Presentations (2) | 30% | In-person | The first one at the end of the Fall Semester, and the second one at the end of the Winter Semester |
| Test One | 20% | In-person | At the end of the Fall Semester |
| Test Two | 15% | In-person | At the end of the Winter Semester |
| Research Essay | 20% | Take-home | At the end of the Winter Semester |
| | 100% | | |