
Sichuan University

School of Pittsburgh

Master Pieces of Chinese Literature: Premorden

Course Number (课程号): 312240030

2025 FALL

Instructor: Dong Minglai

Email: dongminglai@outlook.com

Office Hour: Monday 13:30-16:00

Place: 文科楼 1 区 503A

Course Objectives:

This course aims to introduce fundamental knowledge on the history of Chinese literature. Students are expected to become familiar with the major genres, authors and works written in Chinese before the modern era. The students will also be trained to acquire basic skills of reading literary works through reading classics in the history of Chinese literature.

Textbooks for the course:

1. Zhang, Longxi 张隆溪. *A History of Chinese Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2023.
2. Owen, Stephen, ed and trans. *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911*. New York: W. W Norton, 1996.
3. Cai, Zong-qi, ed. *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.
4. 骆玉明: 《简明中国文学史(典藏版)》, 上海: 复旦大学出版社, 2019 年。

Requirements:

1. Quizzes
2. In Class Tests
3. Final Exam
4. Attendance.

Policies:

1. Grades Breakdown:
Final Exam 40%, Tests 20%, Quizzes 40%.
2. Reading Quizzes: there will be **FIVE** quizzes during the semester. Each quiz worths 8%.
QUIZZES MAY COVER ALL MATERIALS THAT THE INSTURCTOR MENTIONED DURING CLASSTIME BUT NOT IN HIS POWERPOINTS.
3. Tests: There will be **TWO** tests during the semester. Tests will be practices of writing literary works such as verses in traditional Chinese styles. More detailed requirements will be mentioned before every test during the class time. Each test worths 10%.
4. The final exam will be given in the last class of this semester. It will be a close book exam which takes 90 minutes.

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5. Attendance: The lecturer will check the students' attendance AT LEAST three times per month. Each **unexcused** absence will bear a penalty of half a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B- or from a B- to a C+). For each part of a class period missed, a student will receive a deduction of half the point value of a full absence. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the semester. If you are feeling unwell or need to miss a class, inform the instructor ahead of time by email.
 6. 15 minutes after class time is late. Three lates without documented excuse will be considered as an absence.
 7. Cheating and Plagiarism: The first Cheating in a quiz will reduce 10 points directly from the WHOLE credits of the course. The second Cheating in a quiz will FAIL the COURSE. **ANY cheating in the final exam will result an F of the COURSE.**
 8. Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you need accommodations, please contact me.

Schedule:

Note: This schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class at the instructor's discretion.

	<i>Topic(s)</i>
Week 1	Introductions Syllabus What is academic writing?
Week 1-2	<i>The Book of Poetry</i>
Week 3-4	<i>The Lyrics of Chu</i>
Week 4-5	Pre-Qin Narrative Proses
Week 6-7	Poetic Tradition Before the Tang Dynasty
Week 8-10	Poetry of the Tang Dynasty
Week 11-12	Song Lyrics from Tang to Song Dynasties
Week 13-14	Novels and Dramas from Yuan to Qing Dynasties
Week 15	To be Determined
Week 16	Review for the Final Exam
Week 17	Final Exam.