

ENGLIT1380 World Literature in Translation: Classical China at Large

Instructor

David Jeffery,
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Required Text

Blackboard Course Pack; reading materials are required to be printed out and brought to class

Email

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Course Description

This course explores how classical texts ranging from Sunzi's Art of War, Laozi's Dao De Jing, to Tang Dynasty poets have shaped literary, philosophical, and even popular culture. We will examine some of the ways that the cultural transmissions occurred; we will explore how ideas from classical Chinese texts are manifested in different writers and cultural movements; finally, we will try to understand the influence of these ideas in the West and try to understand the contexts that made the reception of these texts so popular. This course will ask students to try to think about the meaning of culture, the authority of text, and tension between the universal quality of ideas the incommensurability of local meaning. The course will also provide insights into the contribution of classical China to global culture, as well as the potential that come from cross-cultural exchange.

Office Location

Zone 4, 218

Office Hours

Tuesday 10-12pm

Wednesday 2-4pm

Thursday 10-12pm

Outcomes

With successful completion of this course, students will

- gain a knowledge of the aesthetic features, conventions, and sociocultural context as well as philosophic issues regarding the importation of Classical Chinese texts in Twentieth Century US literature and culture
- learn and employ correct terminology for addressing cultural studies and cross-cultural issues
- summarize and critically respond to popular and academic readings
- employ aesthetic principles to analyze still images and narratives created through moving images
- write fluently in a variety of genres, including journaling, essay writing, and digital writing
- compose a collaborative, research-based project that has a visual, written, and oral component

Assignments

To demonstrate successful completion of course outcomes students will:

Write 10 weekly reading response papers 20%, Write 1 reflection paper 10%; Write 1 analysis paper 30%, Complete one final collaborative project with written, electronic, and presentation components 40%

Course Schedule

Week	Subject	Assignment
Unit 1 Backgrounds		
Week 1	Intro; translation and location of culture, East, West, Orientalism	
Week 2	Herbert Giles	Read Giles “Chinese Literature” Response 1
Week 3	Lin Yutang: Civilization and Empire	Lin Yutang; Response 2
Week 4	Cathay, Modernism and the Invention of China	Read Ezra Pound Cathay; Paper: reflection on universality vs incommensurability of culture
Unit 2 The Way of the D(T)ao		
Week 5	Laozi and the Dao De Jing; “Chuang-Tse”; Response Paper 4	Read: The Dao De Jing; Response 3
Make Up Week (6)	Screening—student’s choice: Star Wars, Forrest Gump, The Big Lebowski, Mary Poppins	Response Paper 4
Week 6	Tao of Pooh: Dao in the self-help section	Read “Tao of Pooh”; Response Paper 5
Week 7	Tao of Physics: from lab to Los Vegas; the Dao and the Postmodern	Read “Tao of Physics”; Due, Midterm Analysis Paper
Unit 3 The Art of Applying the Art of War		
Week 8	Art of War in Translation; Strategic Thinking	Read “Art of War”; Response Paper 6
Week 9	Art of War in Business; Strategic Thinking Applied	Read “Art of War for Small Business”; Response Paper 7
Week 10	Teaching the Art of War in Teaching	Read David’s paper; Response paper 9; Assign final project 1. Art of War in Engineering collaborative Wiki; or 2. Tao of Engineering collaborative Wiki
Make Up Week (11)	Screen <i>The Magnificent Seven</i>	Screen Film
Unit 4 Counterculture club		

Week	Subject	Assignment
Week 11	Beats and the East	Read Cold Mountain Poems; Mexico City Blues; Response 9
Week 12	Counterculture Movement: Beats, Hippies, and Alternative Worlds of the East	Allen Watts: The Wisdom of Insecurity; Response 10
Week 13	Project Peer Review	Project Draft Due
Week 14	Presentation	Presentation

Attendance:

Students who miss more than two classes without an excuse will be deducted half of a letter grade for each additional absence (5 points out of a hundred from your final class average). Arriving late, leaving class during the lecture, or leaving the class early without an excuse will be recorded—missing class three times in any of these manners will be counted as one absence.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes. No late work will be accepted without instructor approval; it will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.

- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you will lose points for late work in this situation.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you will receive a “0” for that assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Writing Center Policy: first instance will result in failure in assignment with option of re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

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| • arriving to class on time | • attending class regularly |
| • staying on task (including appropriate use of technology) | • completing all homework on time |
| • actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class | • actively and constructively participating in class activities |
| • asking questions | • being prepared to answer questions |
| • bringing all class materials | • using only English in class |