

EALC 8621
Advanced Classical Chinese I
Fall 2024

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students develop their classical Chinese reading ability and provide them with the requisite tools for translating primary sources into English. As this is an advanced class, students are expected to have a basic knowledge of Classical Chinese grammar and vocabulary, equal to at least one year of training. No knowledge of modern Chinese is necessary. The course will not be using a textbook. Instead, texts will be chosen to suit the research interests of the students and will thus change every semester. We will make an attempt to cover a variety of textual genres, such as philosophical and religious writings, historical records, as well as fiction and poetry. Advanced Classical Chinese I (EALC 8621), taught every fall, will focus on early Chinese texts (Zhou to Han). Advanced Classical Chinese II (EALC 8622), taught every spring, will focus on Medieval to the Late Imperial texts.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Class Attendance and Participation: 20%

Weekly Translation Assignments: 40%

Final Project: 40%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Class attendance is part of the learning process. This is a discussion-based class, so you must come prepared, after having completed the weekly translation assignment, and be ready to discuss it in class.

WEEKLY TRANSLATION ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are responsible for translating the assigned texts at home and come prepare to discuss them in class.

FINAL PROJECT:

For their final project, students will choose a Classical Chinese text and produce a 10-page (double spaced) English translation, including footnotes and a bibliography. More details will be provided toward the end of the semester.