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EALC 6221: Chinese Poetry and Prose in Translation

This Master's-level seminar offers a survey of Chinese poetry and prose from the Bronze Age to late imperial times. As it is intended as a complement to EALC 6322, Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation, readings will not include novels, operas, or plays, although there will be some examples of narrative that come close to our category of "fiction." All course materials are in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. This is the first time that the class has been offered online.

There is one required text:

Stephen Owen, ed. and tr., *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911* (New York and London: Norton, 1996). ISBN 978-0393971064.

I have ordered copies from the Penn bookstore, but it should also be available through your favorite online retailer. A copy will be placed on reserve in the library as well.

The requirements of this course are:

- (a) participation in all class meetings (Wednesdays, 3:30-6:30 P.M.);
- (b) completion of all reading assignments;
- (c) one-page term paper proposal and preliminary bibliography (due on October 11);
- (d) oral presentation (December 6);
- (e) term paper (due on December 13).

Students are required to write a term paper comprising approximately 5,000 words on any aspect of Chinese literature from antiquity to 1911. A one-page paper proposal, followed by a preliminary bibliography, will be due on October 11. In this proposal, state what you would like to investigate, the reasons for your interest, and the sources that you expect to use.

If you happen to choose a topic that is not viable in the context of a fourteen-week course, you will still have time to explore other possibilities. The purpose of the bibliography is to demonstrate that you have done some degree of formal research and are aware of basic sources pertaining to your topic; at this stage, it is permissible to list items that you have not yet read. (But be sure that you have read everything in your final bibliography when you submit the term paper itself.) In response to the proposal, the instructor may suggest further avenues for research, as well as other sources that would be worth consulting.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Participation in class:	20%
Paper proposal:	10%
Oral presentation:	30%

Term paper: 40%

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I check it several times a day and usually respond within 24 hours.

WARNING: If you submit plagiarized work, you will fail the assignment, fail the course, and have your case forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct. No exceptions. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor *before* submitting any work. For the university's Code of Academic Integrity, go to <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>.

Schedule of Meetings

August 30. Introduction.

No readings for this class.

September 6. The *Classic of Poetry* and early interpretation.

Owen, 10-71.

September 13. *Lyrics of Chu*.

Owen, 155-214.

September 20. Narrative and historiography.

Owen, 77-154, 215-20.

September 27. Philosophical prose—and how to poke fun.

Owen, 295-310.

October 4. Using poetry to change the world—or just comment on it?

Owen, 227-73.

October 11. Six Dynasties poetry.

Owen, 311-34.

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE.

October 18. The glory of Tang poetry.

Owen, 371-458.

October 25. More Tang literature, because Owen really loves the Tang dynasty.

Owen, 459-549.

November 1. Song poetry and prose.

Owen, 559-619.

November 8. Song literati culture.

Owen, 637-720.

November 15. Vernacular literature and other styles in the Yuan and Ming dynasties.

Owen, 728-43 and 807-79.

November 22. NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING WEEK

November 29. Qing literature.

Owen, 1103-52.

December 6. Student presentations.