

165:412: Chinese Poetry

Fall 2007

Course Syllabus

Monday 6,7; Scott Hall 102
College Avenue Campus

Instructor: Ching-I Tu
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Office Hour:
M. 1.30-2.30 p.m.
W. 1.30-2.30 p.m.

I. Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the development, periods, and classification of Chinese poetry as well as the major poets and their representative writings
2. To help students develop the ability to understand, appreciate, and analyze Chinese poetry
3. To discuss the position of Chinese poetry in Chinese literature and its contributions to world literature and comparative literature
4. To pay special attention in this course to two of the major poetic forms in Chinese poetry: "*shi*" (poetry) of the Tang Dynasty and "*ci*" (lyrical poetry) of the Song Dynasty

II. Textbooks and Reference Material:

1. *Readings in Classical Chinese Literature (RCCL)*, Rutgers Chinese Program, New Brunswick, N. J., revised edition, 1999
2. *Shi-Xuan* (Selected Poems), ed. by Dai Jun-ren, Taipei, 1972
3. *Song Ci Xuan* (Selected Lyrics of the Song Dynasty), ed. by Hu Yun-yi, Shanghai, 1962
4. James J. Y. Liu, *The Art of Chinese Poetry*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962. (A Chinese translation of the book is available.)
5. Burton Watson, *Chinese Lyricism: Shi Poetry*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1971.

* Item 1 can be purchased in the department office (Scott 330).

** All other books are available in the East Asian Library of the Alexander Library on the College Avenue Campus.

III: Course Requirements:

1. Two or three short reports (2 to 5 pages) on readings and topics discussed in the course
2. Quiz
3. Attendance and participation in class discussion
4. Final examination including translation, identification, multiple choice, and essay questions; final examination date: Thursday, December 20, 2007, 4:00-7:00 a.m. (according to the Fall 2007 Undergraduate Schedule of Classes)

*** Percentage of each item will be announced in the class.

IV. Organization and Content of the Course:

1. The Origin of Chinese Poetry:

Shi Jing (The Book of Poetry): Origin, Content, Form, Influence
Chu Ci (The Songs of the South): Origin, Content, Form, Influence
RCCL, p. 2, 5; supplementary readings

2. Poetry of the Han, Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern Dynasties:

Yue Fu (the Music Bureau Poetry of the Han): Origin, Content, Form
The origin and development of the five-word poetry: Form, Content, Representation
The origin and development of the seven-word poetry: Form, Content, Representation
RCCL, pp. 32-33; pp.46-47; p. 48; supplementary readings

3. The Modern Style Poetry of the T'ang:

The early T'ang period: Wang Bo, Chen Zi-ang
The golden T'ang period: Wang Wei, Li Bai, Du Fu, Bai Ju-yi
The late T'ang period: Li He, Li Shang-yin
RCCL, pp. 51-55; pp. 56-58; supplementary readings

4. From "shi" to "ci":

Ci of the late T'ang and the Five Dynasties: Wei Zhuang, Li Yu
Ci of the Northern Song: Su Shi, Zhou Bang-yan
Ci of the Southern Song: Li Qing-zhao, Lu You
RCCL, p. 69-70; pp. 73-75; supplementary readings

5. From "ci" to "qu" (musical lyrics):

The beginning of musical lyrics: Influence of Early Poetic Forms
Lyrics in the Yuan drama: Form and Representation
RCCL, pp. 82-83; supplementary readings

6. The Beginning and Development of Modern Chinese Poetry:

The experiment of poetry in the vernacular language
Modern Chinese poetry in the 20th century
A synthesis of classical and modern Chinese poetry
Supplementary readings

**** Students are required to read all the assigned poems and materials and be prepared for class discussion every week.