



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# CHI 245 Classical Chinese Literature

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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This course offers a profound exploration of renowned literary works in traditional Chinese literature, spanning various genres, historical periods, and cultural contexts. Through close readings, critical analysis, and cultural interpretations, students will delve into masterpieces of Chinese writing, gaining insights into the complexities of language, culture, and human experience. The course aims to cultivate students' appreciation for the richness and diversity of Chinese literary traditions while enhancing their Chinese reading and writing ability.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand celebrated literary works in Chinese literature through intensive reading and analysis.
2. Explore the thematic elements, stylistic features, and narrative techniques employed by Chinese writers.
3. Analyze literary texts within their cultural, historical, and social contexts.
4. Satisfy Chinese reading and writing proficiency through close reading and interpretation of authentic texts.
5. Critically evaluate the significance and enduring relevance of Chinese literary classics.

## PREREQUISITES

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None



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Participation	5 Points
3 Reading & Writing Assignments	15 Points
Presentation	10 Points
Midterm	20 Points
Term Essay	25 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required Texts:

*The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, Victor H. Mair, Columbia University Press, Year: 1994.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Cao, Xueqin. *The Story of the Stone*, or *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Vol. 1: The Golden Days. Translated by David Hawkes. Penguin Group, 1974.

Wang, Shi-fu. *The Story of the Western Wing*. Edited and translated by Stephen H. West and Wilt L. Idema. University of California Press, 1995.

More related works of traditional Chinese literature will be posted on the 1st day of the class.

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: Foundations and Interpretations  Topic 2: Divinations and Inscriptions  Topic 3: Philosophy, Thought, and Religion  Topic 4: Criticism and Theory  Topic 5: Verse</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Reading &amp; Writing Assignment 1</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 6: Classical Poetry  Topic 7: Lyrics and Arias  Topic 8: Elegies and Rhapsodies  Topic 9: Folk and Folklike Songs  Topic 10: Ballads and Narrative Verse</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Reading &amp; Writing Assignment 2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 11: Prose  Topic 12: Documents and History  Topic 13: Moral Lessons  Topic 14: Parallel Prose  Topic 15: Letters</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm  Reading &amp; Writing Assignment 3</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 16: Prefaces and Postfaces  Topic 17: Discourses, Essays, and Sketches  Topic 18: Travelogues and Scenic Descriptions  Topic 19: Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs  Topic 20: Fiction</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Presentation</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 21: Rhetorical Persuasions, Parables, and Allegories  Topic 22: Classical-Language Short Stories  Topic 23: Novels  Topic 24: Oral and Performing Arts  Topic 25: Drama</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Term Essay  Final Exam</p>



## **ATTENDANCE**

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).



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### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.