



ENG 274 Exploring Chinese Literary Masterpiece

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 55 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers an in-depth exploration and appreciation of the Four Great Classical Chinese Novels masterpieces that have had a profound impact on Chinese literature and culture. Students will embark on a captivating journey through the rich tapestry of these timeless works, gaining insight into the historical, cultural, and literary significance that has made them enduring classics.

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

1. Explore the historical context and evolution of Chinese literature during the Ming and Qing dynasties;
2. Examine the key characteristics of classical Chinese literature, including language, style, and narrative techniques;
3. Analyze and juxtapose different adaptations against the original text to refine artistic sensibilities in relation to literature and performance;
4. Utilize the insights acquired from classical texts to address challenges and navigate contemporary issues in their own environment;
5. Evaluate the enduring impact of the Four Great Classical Chinese Novels on modern literature, film, and popular culture.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
3 Assignments	20 Points
2 Essays	30 Points
Midterm	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

Required Texts:

1. Shi Naian, *Water Margin: Outlaws of the Marsh*, Tuttle Publishing, 2024.
2. Guanzhong Luo, *Three Kingdoms*, University of California Press, 2020.
3. Wu Cheng'en, *Journey to the West*, Tuttle Publishing, 2008.
4. Cao Xueqin, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, Open Road Media, 2020.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Chinese Narrative: Critical and Theoretical Essays, Princeton University Press, 1977.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Key Concepts of “Literature” Topic 2: Early Historical and Fictional Narrative Topic 3: Ming and Early Ch’ing Fiction Topic 4: Chinese Narrative Theory</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment#1</p>



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: <i>The Journey to the West</i> Topic 6: Authorship and historical background Topic 7: Characters and their symbolic significance Topic 8: Influence on Chinese culture and beyond Assessments: Essay#1
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: <i>Romance of the Three Kingdoms</i> Topic 10: Analysis of major characters and their roles Topic 11: Exploration of political intrigue and military strategies Topic 12: Legacy and impact on Chinese culture Assessments: Midterm
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: <i>Outlaws of the Marsh</i> Topic 14: Examination of the 108 heroes and their stories Topic 15: Themes of justice, rebellion, and loyalty Topic 16: Cultural and social implications Assessments: Essay#2 Assignment#2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> Topic 18: Authorship and background of Cao Xueqin Topic 19: Exploration of themes such as love, fate, and societal expectations Topic 20: Symbolism and allegory in the narrative Assessments: Final Exam Assignment#3

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).

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



蘇州大學
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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.