

## Chinese Studies at Reed College, 2016-2017

### **I. Humanities 230 Chinese Humanities:**

This course is a team-taught, year-long interdisciplinary examination of two pivotal periods in Chinese history, the Qin/Han (221 B.C.E. - 220 C.E.) and Song (960 - 1279 C.E.) dynasties.

#### **Fall. The Qin/Han unification**

In geography and cultural advances, the Qin and Han dynasties surpassed their predecessors, and together they number among the world's greatest empires. This course examines their heritage through a selection of primary texts including the Confucian *Analects*, the enigmatic *Dao de Jing*, the cosmological *Book of Changes*, and the historical narrative tradition of Sima Qian's *Shi Ji*. It samples cultural expression ranging from the poetic discourse of rhapsodies and pentasyllabic verse to the religious endeavors manifested in funerary artifacts. Alongside textual studies, this course explores the Han's physical remains, including the ruins of its capitals, the Wu Liang shrine, and its important tombs. The Qin/Han portrays itself as a territorial, political, and cultural unifier, and it sets the benchmark against which all later dynasties must measure themselves.

#### **Spring. The great Song transition**

During the Song renaissance, China mentally realigned itself, as it acknowledged nomad states who would eventually occupy the northern half of China. Foreign religions such as Tiantai and Chan Buddhism flourished alongside the indigenous popular pantheon; we study all of these through their primary texts. These texts and others were propagated through the new woodblock print medium. Furthermore, China was undergoing internal changes such as the emergence of a vibrant new urban culture, which we hear through Song drama and see through Song cityscape paintings. This realignment found other new expressions in intimate lyric poetry, calligraphy, and monumental landscape art. The Qin/Han unification may have laid the basic foundation of imperial China, but the Song marks the beginning of modern China.

### **II. Chinese Language Courses:**

#### **Chinese 110 First-year Chinese**

A beginner's course in standard (Mandarin) modern spoken and written Chinese, aimed at building a solid foundation in all its aspects: pronunciation (especially the tones), syntax, and basic vocabulary. Attention is given to a balanced development of all the basic skills of the language: listening and reading comprehension, speaking, and writing. Pinyin is the romanization system used in this and all other Chinese language courses. Both the traditional and simplified characters are taught. Students are expected to read both and write one of the two versions. Lecture-conference.

### **Chinese 210 Second-year Chinese**

This course is designed to build the skills of students who have studied at least one year of Chinese (or equivalent) to achieve intermediate-level proficiency in the oral and written use of the language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Emphasis in the course will be placed on learning to recognize and reproduce the natural flow of the spoken language, expanding vocabulary, and learning to write short essays in Chinese. Prerequisite: Chinese 110 or acceptance through placement test. Lecture-conference.

### **Chinese 311 Third-year Chinese**

This course is designed for students who have completed at least two years of Chinese language (or equivalent). The course will focus on student acquisition of near-native fluency in spoken Chinese, competence in reading a variety of contemporary texts (with a dictionary), and employment of different registers and genres of Chinese in students' writing. Prerequisite: Chinese 210 or acceptance through placement test. Conference.

### **Chinese 316 Classical Chinese**

Intensive introduction to the grammar of classical Chinese through the study of selections from ancient literary, historical, and philosophical texts. Readings include *The Analects*, *Mencius*, *Zhuangzi*, *Shiji*, and Tang-Song prose essays. Conducted in Chinese. Prerequisite: Chinese 210 or equivalent. Conference.

### III. Topical Courses on China at Reed College, 2016-2017

Dept	Anthropology	Art	Chinese	Economics	History	Religion
Term						
Fall	Anth 362 Gender & ethnicity in China & Tibet	Art 391 Material culture & study of later Chinese painting	<u>Chin 281</u> Self, stage, society: An excursion into Chinese drama  <u>Chin 334</u> The <i>Yijing</i> : Text & tradition of the <i>Book of changes</i>  <u>Chin 360</u> Social life of Tang poetry  <u>Chin 412</u> 现实主义与中国现当代文学 Realism & modern / contemporary Chinese literature	<u>Econ 385</u> Asian economies in transition	<u>Hist 325</u> Family history of China & Japan  <u>Hist 329</u> Cameras & photography in 19th-century East Asia	
Spring			<u>Chin 348</u> Theories & practices of literary translation  <u>Chin 380</u> Chinese narrative traditions		<u>Hist 221</u> From treaty ports to megacities: Chinese urban history	<u>Rel 115</u> Religion & philosophy in pre-imperial China  <u>Rel 310</u> Death & remembrance in Chinese history

#### Anthropology 362 Gender and ethnicity in China and Tibet

Chinese and Tibetan peoples have interacted for centuries, but it is only in the last half of the twentieth century that the "Tibet question" in China has risen to global attention. This course looks at modern Sino-Tibetan relations through the lens of ethnicity and gender as a way to understand the contentious process through which the Chinese nation-state and national identity have been constructed. Through readings, films, discussions and lectures, we will explore the diversity of Tibetan and Han Chinese family organization, gender ideologies and ethnic identities just prior to, during and after the Communist revolutionary period. This perspective will shed light on the incorporation of Tibetans as a "minority nationality" in the Chinese "multinational state," the role of such minorities in constructing Han Chinese majority identity, and the differing impact of state policies on men and women in the context of rapid economic reform and globalization in the PRC. Conference. Prerequisite: Anthropology 211 or consent of instructor.

### **Art 391 Material culture and the study of later Chinese painting**

Although centuries of scholars have written on Chinese painting, with the rise of material culture studies and its various incarnations, canonical objects in the field of art history are now subject to an expanded field of interdisciplinary scrutiny. The central objective of this class is to understand the histories of Chinese painting as networks, where each element in the production of a Chinese painting—from artists, brushes, paper, silk, seals to the spaces in which painting practices occur—serves as meaningful nodes. This class critically engages with Chinese paintings from the Song to Qing dynasty from this methodological lens. Readings are structured thematically, with one theoretical text and other more specific examinations of cultures of painting in imperial China, with the hope that students are able to draw connections between and be critical of the two types of scholarly works. Prerequisites: Art 201, Humanities 230, or permission of instructor. Conference

### **Chinese 281 Self, stage and society: An excursion into Chinese drama**

This course introduces students to representative works of Chinese drama from the mid-imperial era (approximately from the tenth to fourteenth century) to the period of cultural revolution (1966–76). The justification for spanning the conventional divide between the premodern and modern periods is the lasting appeal of the early theatrical masterpieces through the ages, in terms of both dramatic forms and thematic matters. This course will enable students to break out of the confines of the rigid dichotomy between tradition and modernity to see the powerful resonance between the two, and to understand how the educated class through the ages has carved out their own identity through projecting their aspirations for an ideal society or their indignations over an imperfect one. Readings include works by Guan Hanqing, Wang Shifu, Tang Xianzu, Guo Moruo, Ouyang Yuqian, Cao Yu, and Tian Han, among others. Readings are available in English translation. Students taking the course for Chinese credit will meet for an additional hour of reading in the original language. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of the instructor. Conference. Cross-listed as Literature 281.

### **Chinese 334 *Yijing*: Text and tradition of the *Book of changes***

The *Yijing*, or *Book of Changes*, is a text of limitless possibilities. This course explores various strategies of reading the text and examines philosophical, religious, historical, and literary critical implications of the text and the tradition associated with it. The system and the language of the 64 hexagrams and various layers of attached verbalization will be the focus of investigation. Readings are in English. Students who take the course for Chinese credit meet for additional tutoring to read parts of the text in the original. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Cross-listed as Literature 334.

### **Chinese 360 The social life of poetry in the Tang Dynasty (618-907)**

This course will examine the role poetry played in Tang society, as well as how broader social changes—changing composition of the reading public, new technologies of

writing, and developing economies of textual circulation—influenced the ways in which poetry was written, for whom, and with what aims. Both primary and secondary materials are in English. Students who take the course for Chinese credit meet for additional tutoring to read parts of the texts in the original. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Conference. Cross-listed as Literature 360.

### **Chinese 412 现实主义与中国现当代文学 Realism & modern / contemporary Chinese literature**

Readings, instruction and required coursework in Chinese. Prerequisite: third-year level of Chinese proficiency. Students will have an opportunity to read essays and literary texts (in excerpts or in entirety) by celebrated Chinese writers of the twentieth century. Conference.

### **Chinese 348 Reading for Literary Translation: Theories and Practice**

This course examines theories of literary translation, including various ideas of equivalence, purposes, causes of uncertainty, and the formation of paradigms. Further it will attempt to practice the theories, by exploring methods of reading particularly for translation, and on strategies of rendering such a reading into another language. Prerequisite: A reading knowledge of Chinese is necessary. For exceptional cases, students with a reading knowledge of Japanese and Korean can be permitted to join the class.

### **Chinese 380 Narrative traditions of China**

This course will approach the Chinese narrative tradition through close reading of the *Story of the Stone* and its literary antecedents. First published in 1792, *Story of the Stone* recounts the experiences of a magical stone from heaven reborn as the male heir of the immensely wealthy and aristocratic Jia family. Through reading and discussion of poetry, drama, short story, and longer works of fiction from earlier periods alongside selected chapters from the novel, we will explore the ways in which *Story of the Stone* self-consciously adapts literary conventions, techniques, and motifs from the narrative tradition, and learn to appreciate both China's rich literary tradition and the unique artistic achievements of this novel. An additional hour of class of guided readings in the original will be offered for students taking this course for Chinese credit. Readings in English. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Conference. Cross-listed as Literature 380.

### **Economics 385 Asian economies in transition**

This course will compare and contrast plan-to-market transition processes across several Asian countries noted for their economic size and significance, including China, Japan, and India. We will take a sectoral approach, noting variation in policy objective, design, implementation, and outcome. Among the sectors we will consider are agriculture, industry, banking and finance, foreign trade and investment, and the public sector. Our focus will be contemporary rather than historical, although the roles of initial conditions and historical legacies also are relevant to our discussions. Prerequisite: Economics 201. Conference.

### **History 325 The family in China and Japan**

This course explores the visions and myths, manifestations, and transformations of the family in China and Japan from the seventeenth century to the present. Major topics will include: classical statements on filiality, ancestors, and the family as paradigm for social and political theory; demographic change and family "life cycles"; household and lineage interactions; marriage and adoption practices; familial authority, inheritance regulations, and household management strategies; domestic rituals; child rearing and child-parent relations; gender and generational conflicts; social impact of population control; and the effect of modern revolutions on the family and its manifestations. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor. Conference.

### **History 329 Cameras and photography in nineteenth-century East Asia**

This course examines the early history of photography in China and Japan. Attention will be given to the complex (and disparate) technological histories of the medium, the varied uses to which the camera was put, and the impact of this new technology upon visual cultures in China and Japan. The dissemination of photographs into other media and the impact of consumer preferences upon content and style will also be examined. Travel landscapes, studio portraits, ethnographic photographs, and documentary images by Euro-American, Japanese, and Chinese photographers are among the visual data to be analyzed. Other sources include optical treatises, travel literature, government reports, and early ethnographies. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor. Conference.

### **History 221 From treaty ports to megacities: Chinese urban history**

In China today, few environments change more rapidly than those in major metropolitan centers. Uncontrollable hypergrowth, large floating populations, and insufficient resources & infrastructure all make efficient urban planning and healthy community development difficult to achieve. This course will examine the origins of these current challenges, as well as solutions posed to solve earlier problems, both imagined and real. Topics to be addressed will include: imperial models and spatial legacies; treaty ports, bunds and foreign concessions; rural migration, sojourning and movement between cities; hinterlands, regional networks and global connections; revolutionary hygiene and public health; department stores, desire industries & Shanghai fashion; the interwar lifestyles of petty urbanites and Westernized capitalists; covert political communities and urban labor organizing; wartime destruction and relocation; purifying the decadent city via socialist governance; hutongs, alleyway houses and rebuilt residential space; and reassessing the colonial past and the globalized present in China's megacities. Conference

### **Religion 115 Religion & philosophy in pre-imperial China**

This course is a study of religion and philosophy in preimperial China (i.e., before 221 BCE) alongside their literary and artistic manifestations. While a billion people can today claim an intellectual inheritance from Greece, more than two billion recognize

ancient China as their foundation. Beginning with the oracle bones and sacrificial bronze vessels, the course will progress to the Confucian classics and the blossoming of Chinese philosophy. Analyses will include bronze-age material culture (including the new discoveries of Sanxingdui), *The book of songs* from the Confucian tradition, *The Zhuangzi* from the Daoist tradition, and the preimperial narrative histories of the *Zuo commentary*. Conference.

### **Religion 310 Death & remembrance in Chinese history**

Using Reed's study collection of Chinese hell scrolls as a springboard, this course explores texts and images that trace out the cycles of death and rebirth in literary genres. We follow the monk Mulian as he looks for his mother in hell, and we witness Emperor Taizong as he faces judgment before the underworld magistrates. We study Chinese sutras as well as the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, and we unpack the 400-page travelogue of Taiwanese monks who in the 1970s undertook scores of day trips to hell via spiritual mediums. Throughout we will consider which theoretical lenses in religious studies are most useful in increasing our understanding of Chinese retributive hell. Prerequisite: Religion 157 or 160, and Religion 201 or Humanities 230, or consent of the instructor. Conference.