

Asia 515A Chinese Narrative: Short Stories in the Classical and Vernacular Languages
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Meeting Time: TBA

The focus of this seminar is on short fiction in the classical language, with some attention to vernacular short stories (*huaben*) in the latter stages of the course, for purposes of comparison. The goals of the seminar will be: 1) To gain an idea of how classical language tales developed over a period of roughly 1500 years, from ca. 300-1800; 2) To gain an idea of how classical language short story compares to its vernacular counterpart and how the two influenced each other after the emergence of vernacular fiction around 1400; and 3) To gain an idea of how the status of fiction rose (what one scholar refers to as "making room for fiction" in the Chinese literary landscape), how its aesthetics ("poetics") evolved, and how Chinese fiction compares to its counterparts in the West.

Thematically, the emphasis is on demon tales and fiction of the strange (*guai*, or *yi*), with attention to stories in which animals transform and intrude into the human world. However, we will also read fiction on other topics, notably romances.

Each week we will read translations of some representative narratives, together with recent work in Western languages on them. We will also read a chapter each week from two theoretical works, by Sheldon Lu and Mingdong Gu, which are written from a comparative perspective.

Requirements (in addition to regular attendance)

- Class Participation (30%), based on contributions to class discussions.
- Two oral reports (20%), from among the items listed "for reporting" each week, beginning in the third week. I envision these reports as taking about 20-25 minutes of class time, with no more than one report per meeting.
- A bibliography (10%): The bibliography is to be prepared for one of the week's topics and shared with the class at the time of that meeting. A portion of the Week One meeting will be devoted to a discussion of how to locate secondary materials.
- A final paper of 20-25 pages (40%), on a topic to be determined in consultation with me. The paper is due no later than December 15.

In conjunction with this course, I will also offer a course of directed readings, where we will read original texts in both classical and vernacular Chinese. Some of the texts will be "raw" (no glossaries or notes provided); others will be "cooked." Requirements will be to prepare each week's texts for oral translation and discussion, and to produce an annotated translation of an original text or texts as a final paper. Library visits will introduce reference tools that are useful in preparing the translation. For these sessions students will read selected chapters from Endymion Wilkinson's research manual, listed for Week One below. Some attention will also be given to bibliography for Chinese language sources on classical Chinese fiction.

Week One Locating Secondary Materials for the Study of Chinese Fiction

In addition to organizational matters, I will discuss reference tools and online resources for locating secondary sources on Chinese literature, especially fiction. The emphasis will be on western language sources, with some attention also given to sources in Chinese and Japanese.

Endymion Wilkinson. *Chinese History: A Manual*. Rev. ed. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2000. Chapter 10 ("Locating Secondary Sources").

Week Two Accounts of Animals and the Strange in Early Texts

Strassberg, Richard E., ed. & trans. *A Chinese Bestiary: Strange Creatures from the Guideways Through Mountains and Seas*. Berkeley: U of California P, 2002). Introduction, 1-79; select several items from among the 76 plates for which Strassberg has provided translations and be prepared to comment on them in class.

Lu, Sheldon. *From Historicity to Fictionality: The Chinese Poetics of Narrative*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1994. Introduction, 1-11 & Ch. 1 ("Rectifying the Terms: The West"), 13-36.

Week Three Animals and Demons

Sterckx, Roel. *The Animal and the Daemon in Early China* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2002). Introduction ("Contextualizing Animals"), 1-13; Ch. 1 ("Defining Animals"), 15-43; & Ch. 7 ("Strange Animals"), 205-37.

Lu, Chapter 2 ("Rectifying the Terms: China"), 17-42.

Item for Reporting

Sterckx. Select one from among the two following chapters: 5 ("Transforming the Beasts"), 123-63; or 6 ("Changing Animals"), 165-204.

Week Four Six Dynasties Zhiguai (Anomaly Accounts)

Gan Bao. *In Search of the Supernatural : The Written Record*. Trs. Kenneth Dewoskin and James I. Crump (Stanford: Stanford UP, 1996). Scan at least ten of the twenty chapters.

Dewoskin, Kenneth. "The Six Dynasties *Chih-kuai* and the Birth of Fiction." *Chinese Narrative: Critical and Theoretical Essays*. Ed. Andrew H. Plaks (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1977). 21-52.

Lu, Chapter 3 ("Chinese Historical Interpretation in the Reading of Narrative"), 53-73.

Item for Reporting

Robert Ford Campany, *Strange Writing: Anomaly Accounts in Early Medieval China*. Albany: SUNY UP, 1996. An encyclopedic introduction to *zhiguai* by a scholar of religion. Ch. 3 ("Justifying the Strange: The Warrant for the Genre of Anomaly Accounts"), 101-59. This chapter complements the article by Dewoskin.

Week Five Six Dynasties Anomaly Accounts II

Articles by Charles E. Hammond, who has made the tenth-century anthology of *zhiguai* narratives, *Taiping guangji* (Wide Gleanings of the Taiping Era), a research specialty: 1) "History and Hearsay," *Tamkang Review* 30.4 (Summer 1990): 359-82; 2) "Excursions in Tiger Lore." *Asia Major, Third Series* 4.1 (1991): 87-100; 3) The Righteous Tiger and the Grateful Lion." *Monumenta Serica* 43 (1996): 191-211; 4) "Sacred Metamorphosis: The Weretiger and the Shaman." *Acta Orientalia* 46.2-3 (1992-93): 235-55; "Vulpine Alchemy." *T'oung Pao* 82.4-5 (1996): 364-80; "The Interpretation of Thunder." *Journal of Asian Studies* 53.2 (1994): 487-503. (About 108 pages)

Lu, Chapter 4 ("The Poetics of Historiography"), 74-92.

Items for Reporting

Dudbridge, Glen. *Religious Experience and Lay Society in Tang China: A Reading of Tai Fu's Kuang-I chi*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995. Treats *zhiguai* as ethnography. An appendix provides summaries of 328 items from *Guangyi ji*, by Dai Fu (fl. 757). Ch. 1 ("A Sequence of Voices"), 1-17; and Ch. 7 ("Mating with Spirits"), 154-73.

Week Six Tang Dynasty Chuanqi I: Early Tang Tales

Chen, Jue. *Record of an Ancient Mirror: An Interdisciplinary Study*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010. (Chapters to be selected upon receipt of book by interlibrary loan)

"The White Ape," "Red Thread," "Nie Yinniang," "The Kunlun Slave." "Miss Ren."

Lu, Chapter 5 ("Reading T'ang Fiction as History, Allegory, and Fantasy"), 93-128.

Items for Reporting

Hightower, John. "Yuan Chen and 'The Story of Yingying'." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 33 (1975): 90-123; and Stephen Owen. *The End of the Middle Ages: Essays in Mid-Tang Literary Culture*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2006. Ch. 7 ("Conflicting Interpretations: 'Yingying's Story'"), 149-73. Two "takes" on the best-known Tang *chuanqi*.

Week Seven Tang Dynasty Chuanqi II: The Mature Tang Tale

Dudbridge, Glen. *The Tale of Li Wa: Study and Critical Edition of a Chinese Story from the Ninth Century*. London: Ithaca Press, 1983. A critical edition with an annotated translation. Read the introduction, 1-102, but Dudbridge's annotated translation is a revelation.

Assorted Tang *chuanqi* romances (the most popular type): "The Tale of Li Wa," "Wushuang the Peerless," "Miss Liu," "Huo Xiaoyu," and "The Story of Yingying."

Item for Reporting

Rouzer, Paul. *Articulated Ladies: Gender and the Male Community in Early Chinese Texts*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2001. Ch. 6 ("From Ritual to Romance"), 216-48, which discusses several Tang *chuanqi* romances, including all of the above.

Week Eight Song Classical Narratives: Hong Mai (1123-1202)

Inglis, Alistair D. *Hong Mai's Record of the Listener and Its Song Dynasty Context*. Albany: SUNY UP, 2006. Chapters 1-4 (121 pages)

Lu, Chapter 6 ("From History to Verisimilitude: The Emergence of a Poetics of Fiction in China"), 129-50.

Item for Reporting

Hansen, Valerie. *Changing Gods in Medieval China, 1127-1226*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1989. A history of popular religion during the Southern Song that draws heavily on *Yijian zhi*. Ch. 3 ("Understanding the Gods"), 48-78.

Week Nine Vernacular Fiction: Early Ming Demon Stories

"A Mangy Priest Exorcizes a Den of Ghosts," "With a White Falcon, Young Master Cui Brings an Evil Spirit upon Himself," "Wu Qing Meet Ai'ai by Golden Bridge Pond," "Madam White is Kept Forever Under Thunder Peak Tower"¹ (about 74 pages)

Hanan, Patrick. *The Chinese Vernacular Story*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1981. Ch. 1 ("Language and Narrative Model"), 1-27. A seminal discussion of style and narrative method in both the classical tale and vernacular short story.

Gu, Mingdong. *Chinese Theories of Fiction: A Non-Western Narrative System*. Albany: SUNY UP, 2006. Introduction, 1-16.

Item for Reporting

Hanan, Patrick. "The Early Chinese Short Story: A Critical Theory in Outline." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 27 (1967): 168-207.

Week Ten Vernacular Fiction II: Late Ming Romances

¹From three collections published between 1620-27 and translated by Shuhui and Yunqin Yang.

"Jiang Xingge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt" and "Du Shiniang Sinks Her Jewel Box in Anger" (required), "For One Penny, A Small Grudge Ends in Stark Tragedies," and "The Oil-Peddler Wins the Queen of Flowers" (recommended). (handout)

Hanan, Patrick. "The Making of *The Pearl-Sewn Shirt* and *The Courtesan's Jewel Box*." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 32 (1973): 124-53. An article based on the above two stories.

Gu, Ch. 1 ("Chinese Notions of Fiction"), 17-42.

Item for Reporting

McMahon, Keith. *Causality and Containment in Seventeenth-Century Chinese Fiction*. Leiden: E. K. Brill, 1988. Ch. 2 ("The Causality of Adultery and the Focus on Detail in the Late Ming Short Story"), 33-62. Three of four stories we will read are discussed in this chapter.

Week Eleven Classical Fiction in the Late Imperial Period: Pu Songling (1640-1715)

Selected stories from *Liaozhai zhiyi* (Liaozhai's record of the strange): "Fox Girl Qingfeng," "Yingning," "Jiaonuo," "Lianxiang," "Liansuo," and "Qiaonuo."

Huntington, Rania. *Alien Kind: Foxes and Late Imperial Chinese Narrative*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2003. Introduction, 1-6; Ch. 1 ("Species History, Genre History"), 7-33; & Ch. 6 ("The Fox Romance"), 224-89.

Gu, Ch. 2 ("The Nature of [Chinese] Fiction"), 43-70.

Item for Reporting

Chiang, Lydia Sing-chen. *Collecting the Self: Body and Identity in Strange Tale Collections of Late Imperial China*. Leiden: Brill, 2005. Ch. 3 ("Body, Power, and Fantastic Discourse in *Liaozhai zhiyi*"). 127-56.

Week Twelve Classical Fiction in the Late Imperial Period: Ji Yun (1724-1805)

Selected items from *Yuewei caotang biji* (Random jottings at the Cottage of Close Scrutiny), as translated by David L. Keenen and Leo Tak-hung Chan.

Chiang, Chs. 1 ("Introduction: Theorizing Chinese Strange Tale Collections"), 1-59; and Ch. 5 ("Creation, Transmission, and the Ghostly Past in *Yuewei caotang biji*"), 197-243.

Gu, Ch. 3 ("The Aesthetic Turn in Chinese Fiction"), 71-96.

Item for Reporting

Huntington, Ch. 7 ("Becoming *Xian*, Arousing *Yao*: Foxes and Meaning"), 290-322.