

Spring 1-15-2007

ENG 3009G-001-003: Myth and Culture: From Dao to Matrix

John Martone
Eastern Illinois University

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Professor John Martone
English 3009G
Myth and Culture: From Dao to Matrix

Office: CH3751
email: jpmartone@eiu.edu
Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00

Texts

Kobo Abe, *The Box Man*
A.C. Graham, *Chuang Tzu: The Inner Chapters*
Donald Keene, *Anthology of Japanese Literature*
D.C. Lau, *Tao Te Ching*
Stephen Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*

Overview

Discussion of selected texts from Chinese and Japanese traditions as well as several contemporary works. Attention to notions of cosmology, society, and human nature; as well as the themes of tradition and innovation.

Requirements

Weekly quizzes and/or in-class writing assignments.	25% of final grade
Two translation exercises and one film review.	25% of final grade
One 3-5 page essay	25% of final grade
Final examination	25% of final grade

Schedule

1. January 8, 10, 12

Part I. China

Introduction, The Confucian Classics.

Confucius: *The Analects* (*Lunyu*, 論語)

Selections at <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~jpmartone/confucius.htm>

Complete text of *The Analects* at <http://www.confucius.org/lunyu/lange.htm>

2. January 17, 19

Confucian Classics, cont'd.

Begin *The Book of Songs* (*Shijing*, 詩經 in Owen, 10-27, 30-32, 34-57)

3. January 22, 24, 26

Confucian Classics, cont'd.

Finish *Songs*.

The Book of Change (*Yijing*, 易經) readings TBA

4. January 29, 31, February 2

Daoism

Lau, *Tao Te Ching* (道德經)

Translation assignment 1: Take at least four lines (your favorites!) from the *Tao Te Ching* and, using the tools below, in no more than two pages 1.) do your own translation and 2.) discuss the difficulties you encountered and discoveries you made. The assignment is due February 19.

Your starting place is <http://www.zhongwen.com/>

For a character-by-character gloss of the Laozi, go to <http://zhongwen.com/dao.htm>

To incorporate Chinese characters into your text: <http://www.inputking.com>

5. February 5, 7, 9

Tao Te Ching, cont'd.

Translation Assignment due February 19

6. February 12, 14

Zhuangzi (莊子)

Chambers, *Chuang Tzu: The Inner Chapters*

7. February 19, 21, 23

Buddhism. (Lecture and handouts.)

8. February 26, 28, March 2

Tang Poetry: Wang Wei (Owen 385-395)

Translation Assignment 2: Choose a poem from the handout I will provide, and translate as in assignment 1, above. Assignment due March 2.

9. March 5, 7, 9

Part 2. Japan

The Ancient Period (Keene 33-60)

10. March 12, 14, 16

Spring Break

11. March 19, 21, 23

Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book* (Keene, 137), *Kamo no chomei, An Account of My Hut* (197); Yoshida Kenko, *Essays in Idleness* (231)

12. March 26, 28, 30

Basho, *Oku no hosomichi*

Keene, 363, 374, 384

13. April 2, 4, 6

Issa Kobayashi, in Keene and from <http://haikuguy.com/issa/>

Journal of My Father's Last Days, <http://www.jstor.org/view/00270741/di995072/99p0069s/0>

14. April 9, 11, 13

Part 3. Modern Times

The response to Hiroshima: *Black Rain*

Assignment 3: View and Review a film TBA. Review due April 13.

15. April 16, 18, 20

Two Contemporaries

1. From Japan: Kobo Abe, *The Box Man*

Zielenziger, *Shutting out the Sun* (on reserve)

16. April 23, 25, 27

Two Contemporaries

2. From China: Xubing (<http://www.xubing.com>)