Spring 2004

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ENG 3110G-001-002: Cultural Foundations II

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English/Philosophy 3110G: Cultural Foundations II
Sections 001/002, TR 9:30-10:45 (CH 2721) / TR 11-12:15 (CH 3170)
Eastern Illinois University, spring 2004

Description:
In this course we will take a journey to the West that will travel through the cultures of the Far and Near East: China, Japan, India, and the various nations of Islam. In addition to key religious and philosophical texts of these regions, the varieties of non-Western literature will receive especially close attention, with readings selected from the rich Eastern traditions of drama, fiction, essays, and epic and lyric poetry. Regular reference will be made to contemporary representations of Eastern traditions, such as Dragonball Z. Grading will be based on midterms, final, two short papers, and regular quizzes and/or short homework assignments.

Course goals:
• explore major cultures of the East as expressed in their religions, philosophies, and literatures
• improve writing practices through exercises in academic writing and analysis
• build critical ability in tracing the histories of ideas, literary themes, and cultural influences
• increase aesthetic appreciation and personal enjoyment of Eastern cultures in all their variety

Required texts (in order of appearance):
Yip, ed. and trans., Chinese Poetry: An Anthology
Chan, ed. and trans., A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy
Rahula, What the Buddha Taught
Waley, trans., Monkey: Folk Novel of China
Keene, ed., Anthology of Japanese Literature
Coomaraswamy, comp., Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists
Buck, trans., The Mahabharata
Dawood, trans., The Koran
Barks, trans., The Essential Rumi
Haddawy, trans., The Arabian Nights

Strongly suggested: a good desk dictionary (Merriam-Webster's New Collegiate; American Heritage; Encarta; Webster's New World). Look for “desk” or “college” in title, and a claim on the cover of including about 150,000 to 200,000 “words.”

Grading (determined by the class within these ranges on day 1: NO CHANGES after this date):
• two 4-page papers @ 10-20% (textual analysis/no research)
• two midterms @ 15-25% (objective and essay questions)
• final exam, 15-25% (only partially comprehensive)
• quizzes/short homeworks, 5-20% (extra credit possible)
• attendance and participation 10% (fixed percentage).

Agreed-On Grades:
2 papers @ ____% + 2 midterms @ ____% + final ____% + quizzes ____% + A./P. 10% = 100%.
Policies:
1. Attendance and punctuality are required beginning from the first day of class. Absences must be excused ahead of time; sickness or emergencies must be documented for absences to be excused. (Documentation means a doctor’s note, Polaroids of your accident, a funeral program, etc.; please show me the original AND provide me with a photocopy for my records.) Lateness and unexcused absences will adversely affect the attendance and participation grade. Excessive absenteeism (six absences or more) is grounds for failure in the course. If attendance becomes difficult for you for any reason, please keep me aware of your situation.

2. You are expected to participate with appropriate comments, questions, or attentiveness, as well as to arrive with all the pertinent materials for the day. Please shut off cell phones and pagers, and follow the expected norms of classroom etiquette. In the case of absence, you are fully responsible for all material covered and for any changes to syllabus or assignments. The instructor will NOT review class work with you; you are expected to get everything you can from other class members. A voluntary list of class names and contact info will be circulated for this purpose. However, please email or call me if you have an emergency and need to know what we are covering.

3. **NO PAPER EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.** If you choose to turn in a paper late, the paper will be downgraded one full letter grade (or the equivalent score) for each university working day that it is late (example: Thursday’s A paper is a C paper by Monday). Instructor comments on late papers will be minimal.

4. **THERE ARE NO MIDTERM MAKEUPS.** Contact me immediately in an emergency.

5. Plagiarism and cheating are serious matters and will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The standard penalty is failure for the course. Plagiarism implies any unacknowledged, substantial help on assignments beyond background discussion, including cutting and pasting from Internet sources (“patchwriting”). You are expected to understand this and other issues of academic integrity; please see www.eiu.edu/~judicial/code.html.

6. This is a “writing-intensive” course. This means that you may need to submit one of your papers as part of your Electronic Writing Portfolio. Time for consultation regarding EWP submissions is reserved toward the end of the semester. See www.eiu.edu/~assess.

7. The instructor will strive to be available in various ways for any needs or concerns that you may have. Take advantage of this earlier rather than later. Please stay in touch if you feel you are in trouble or just need more help! If you are having any serious difficulties, especially difficulties in attendance, please keep me posted. Also see me if you have a disability that needs accommodation.

Schedule (subject to change):

T 1/13 introduction; course policies and syllabus; learning styles assignment

China: Sanjiao and the Journey to the West
R 1/15 creation stories (handout); The Book of Songs (Yip)

T 1/20 poetry of Li Po (Yip)
R 1/22 poetry of Tu Fu (Yip)

T 1/27 Confucius, Analects (Chan)
R 1/29 Taoism; Lao Tzu/Tao te-Ching (Chan)

T 2/3 Yin and Yang and the Five Agents (Chan); Buddhism (Rahula)
R 2/5  Ch‘eng-en, *Monkey* (Waley)

T 2/10 *Monkey* cont’d. (Waley)
R 2/12 **MIDTERM 1**

**Japan: The Floating Island**
T 2/17 introduction; poetry, the *Man‘yoshu* (Keene)
R 2/19 poetry, the *Kokinshu* and selected haiku (Keene)

T 2/24 Murasaki, *The Tale of Genji* (Keene)
R 2/26 Murasaki, diary; Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book* (Keene)

T 3/2  **PAPER 1 DUE**

T 3/9 Chikamatsu, *The Love Suicides at Sonezaki* (Keene)

**India: Myths and the Heroic Epic**
R 3/11 introduction; the *Ramayana* (Coomaraswamy)

T 3/16 **SPRING**
R 3/18 **BREAK**

T 3/23 the *Mahabharata* (Buck)
R 3/25 the *Mahabharata* cont’d. (Buck)

T 3/30 the *Bhagavad-Gita* (Coomaraswamy)
R 4/1 **MIDTERM 2**

**Islam: The Literature and Religion of the Near East**
T 4/6 introduction; the *Koran* (Dawood)
R 4/8 the *Koran* cont’d. (Dawood)

T 4/13 *Rumi*, selected poems (Barks)
R 4/15 *Rumi* cont’d. (Barks)

T 4/20 *The Arabian Nights* (Haddawy)
R 4/22 *The Arabian Nights* cont’d. (Haddawy)

T 4/27 **PAPER 2 DUE**
R 4/29 final review

**FINAL EXAM:**  TR 9:30-10:45 section:  Monday, May 3, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
TR 11-12:15 section:  Tuesday, May 4, 2:45-4:45 p.m.