

Great Texts: Asian Thought and Literature

Humanities 203

Section: D100

Term: 2011 Summer

Instructor: Shuyu Kong

Discussion Topics: This

course will introduce *The Story of the Stone* (also known as *Dream of the Red Chamber*, or *Honglou meng*), an 18th century novel which has the same iconic status as Shakespeares dramatic works in Chinese literary history and has greatly influenced Chinese minds. It is also a great sourcebook for learning about different aspects of Chinese culture, from the family system and social relations to poetry and religion, all of which find their most vivid manifestations in the novel.

Thus the

course has a dual purpose: one is to introduce a masterwork of Chinese literature and its distinctive literary tradition; the other is to introduce aspects of Chinese culture through the novel. The study method is a combination of close reading, class discussions, and lectures in which some important philosophical, cultural and artistic themes of the novel will be introduced. In order to understand some of the universal themes such as Buddhism and enlightenment from another perspective, we will also read *Siddhartha* a novel by German writer Hermann Hesse as a comparison.

This

course is for students who wish to learn about Chinese culture through an interesting and accessible text.

Grading: 10% - Attendance and Participation

15% - Tutorial (preparation & discussion)\x09

20% - Midterm\x09

25% - Presentations (2)\x09

30% - Term Paper\x09

Required Texts: Cao Xueqin and Gao E, translated by David Hawkes and John Minford, *The Story of the Stone*, Vols. 1-5, Penguin books.

Hermann Hesse, translated by Sherab C. Kohn, *Siddhartha*. Shambhala, 2000

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Prerequisite: 30 credit hours.

Notes: This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth-Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.