

## Great Texts: Asian Thought and Literature

Humanities 203

Section: D200

Term: 2012 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 in Chinese literary history as Shakespeares dramatic works and has greatly influenced Chinese minds. It is also an excellent 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 master work 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. This course is for students who wish to learn about Chinese culture through an interesting and accessible text.

**Grading:** Attendance and participation 20%

Short Essay 15%

Group Presentation 15%

Midterm (in class) 20%

Final Exam (take home questions) 30%

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

HUM 203 Courseware compiled by Shuyu Kong.

**Recommended Texts:**

**Materials/Supplies:**

**Prerequisite/Corequisite:**

**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.