Course Description

This course is designed to explore the religious culture, cultural history and literary expression of traditional China through a 100-chapter novel known as Journey to the West, or Monkey. Based on the famous Tang Buddhist monk Xuanzang’s (596-664) historical pilgrimage to India, and encompassed the story cycle of the journey to the west developed in a millennia, the novel of the Ming dynasty demonstrates its rich texture of religious and literary themes, sentiments, and assumptions in this novel, a work considered one of the masterpieces of traditional Chinese fiction, and the finest supernatural novel.

The Journey’s scope includes a physical journey, a heroic adventure, a religious mission, and a process of self-cultivation, through the encounters between the pilgrims, mainly the well-known character Monkey who is Xuanzang’s chief disciple and guardian, and various monsters. This novel has an unsurpassingly penetrating impact on Chinese cultural history and society. It represents the maturity of the novel, and most literary genres in its pages. While basically a supernatural novel, it also describes social customs and daily life of different regions of China. More than any other traditional Chinese narratives, the Journey presents concerns and themes directly related to Chinese religious, intellectual and cultural history, in addition to literary tradition.

Pre-requisite: One prior course in Chinese literature, culture or religion, or by instructor’s permission.

Course Requirements

Students will be asked to attend regularly, read the assigned materials each week, and share
with the class brief abstracts of the readings on the topic that they have read during the week. In addition, each student is required to make one/two presentations (15-20 minutes). Five unannounced pop quizzes will be given throughout the course. There are also two short “Reaction Papers” (3 pp. each) and one final long (10-12) paper. The final paper will be due on Tuesday, April 25, at 5:00pm. Late papers will not be read or graded unless permission is given beforehand. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate to me any special needs and circumstances, as well as to provide written documentation for excused absences.

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.”

Required Texts:


In addition to the textbooks, there are other required or recommended readings in the Automating Reserves (Ares, available from Ares Website under the University of Florida Libraries) or Canvas, or on reserve in Library West.

Course Assignments
1. Class participation & preparedness (you will be assigned issues to address in the upcoming reading) (20%).

Absences: Three “free” absences are allowed for medical and other emergencies. For each subsequent absence, your final grade will be affected.

2. Pop quizzes (average of best 3 of 5; the quizzes are 5-10 mins.) (25%).
3. Presentation(s) (10%).
4. Reaction paper (3 pp. each) (15%).
5. Final paper (10-12 pages) (30%).

Grading Scale
A=93-100%; A-=90-92%; B+=87-89%; B=83-86%; B-=80-82%; C+=77-79%; C=73-76%; C-=70-72%; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62%; E=below 60%. S is equivalent to C or better.
Passing Grades and Grade Points
According to university guidelines, letter grades will convert to GPA as follows: A = 4.0; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.33; B = 3; B- = 2.67; C+ = 2.33; C = 2.0; C- = 1.67; D+ = 1.33; D = 1.0; D- = .67; E = 0; WF = 0; I = 0; NG = 0; S-U = 0

"Students must earn a grade of C or higher to meet their major, minor, or General Education requirements. The S-U option is not counted toward their major or minor degree, nor General Education requirements."

Policy for Requesting a Letter of Recommendation
1. I only write letters of recommendation for top students (B+ and above) in my classes; and
2. I only write letters of recommendation for either the Chinese majors who have taken at least one course with me, or non-majors who have taken two courses with me.

Reaction papers:
See “Guidelines for Reaction Papers.”

Discussion:
Students are expected to prepare for the reading assignment prior to the date that is marked in the Syllabus, and generate at least one question about the reading for discussion in class. Everyone is expected to actively participate in the discussion.

Assignments
The primary reading assignment during the first month is between 73 to 92 pages per week. Use this time to read carefully and take detailed notes on patterns, themes, and characters. During wks 5-10, the reading averages 135 pp. per week. If you fall behind, you will not be prepared to participate in, or even absorb the lectures and class discussions. Students will be asked individually to do presentations analyzing the homework readings to the class (15-20 minutes). The written reaction papers should ideally treat chapters not yet discussed in class, or they may bring out aspects of previous chapters that were not discussed in class.

During the last 6 weeks of the semester, effort should go toward developing the final paper (reading assignment during this period drops to an average of 77 pp. per week). Use my office hours for recommended topics and extra secondary criticism. The term paper is 10-12 pages, including notes and bibliography as part of the 10-12 pages. 3 articles or books about the Journey should be referenced.
**Course outline**

Wk 1
1/5 Introduction to the course

Wk 2
Weekly reading:

1/10 Historical background, sources, mythological frame and religious allegory

1/12 Monkey’s origin, cultivation, and heavenly appointments
chs. 1-6 (89 pp.)

Wk 3
Weekly reading:
Anthony C. Yu, “Narrative Structure and the Problem of Chapter Nine in the *Hsi-yu chi.*”

1/17 Monkey’s disturbance and subduing; cause for the pilgrimage
chs. 7-10 (64 pp.)

1/19 Xuanzang, Sun Wukong, and the setting out of the journey
chs. 11-15 (82 pp.)

Wk 4
Weekly reading:

1/24 Enter Dargon Horse and Eight Rules
chs. 16-19 (59 pp.)

1/26 Enter Sha Monk, and the first collective mischief
chs. 20-26 (100 pp.)
Wk 5
Weekly reading:

1/31 Monkey’s banishment
chs. 27-29 (42 pp.)

2/2 The Precious Image Kingdom, the Level-Top Mountain
chs. 30-35 (90 pp.)

Wk 6
Weekly reading:

*2/7 The Black Rooster Kingdom
chs. 36-38 (45 pp.)
*Deadline, #1 written analysis (r-paper) of any theme, pattern, or character(s) to date (3 pp.)*

2/9 Red Boy, and the Black River
chs. 39-43 (76 pp.)

Wk 7
Weekly reading:

2/14 The Cart Slow Kingdom
chs. 44-47 (62 pp.)

2/16 The Heaven-Reaching River, and the Golden Helmet Cave
chs. 48-53 (89 pp.)

**Catch up this weekend if you are now behind on the reading**
Wk 8
Weekly reading:

2/21 Sexual temptations
chs. 54-56 (44 pp.)

2/23 The false Monkey King, and the Mountain of Flames
chs. 57-62 (88 pp.)

Wk 9
Weekly reading:

2/28 Shrine of Sylvan
chs. 63-65 (47 pp.)

3/2 From the Small Thunderclap to the Scarlet-Purple Kingdom
chs. 66-71 (91 pp.)

Wk 10 Spring Break March 4-11: (no classes)

Wk 11
Weekly reading:

3/14 Cobweb Cave and the Many-Eyed Fiend
chs. 72-74 (47 pp.)

3/16 No class—research on the topic of the final paper
Wk 12
Weekly reading:

*3/21 The Lion-Camel Cave
chs. 75-77 (49 pp.)

*Deadline, #2 written analysis (r-paper) of any theme, pattern, or character(s) to date (3 pp.)

3/23 The Bhiksu Kingdom and Mount Void-Entrapping
chs. 78-82 (80 pp.)

Wk 13
Weekly reading:
Qiancheng Li, Fiction of Enlightenment: Journey to the West, Tower of Myriad Mirrors, and Dream of the Red Chamber, pp. 49-89.

3/28 The Dharma-Destroying Kingdom
chs. 83-84 (29 pp.)

3/30 The Jointed-Ring Cave, and the Phoenix-Immortal Prefecture
chs. 85-87 (48 pp.)

Wk 14
Weekly reading:

4/4 The Jade-Flower District
chs. 88-89 (28 pp.)

4/6 Mount Leopard’s Head, and the Green Dragon Mountain
chs. 90-92 (59 pp.)
Wk 15
Weekly reading:

4/11 The Kingdom of India
chs. 93-94 (31 pp.)

4/13 Squire Kou’s home
chs. 95-98 (63 pp.)

Wk 16
Weekly reading:

4/18 Mara’s destroyed, and Five sages become perfected; video
chs. 99-100 (29 pp.)

*Tuesday, April 25 at 5:00pm is the deadline for the term paper. Place a copy under my door or in the mailbox next to my door (Pugh Hall 359). Do not email your paper.

GUIDELINES FOR REACTION PAPERS

Reaction papers:
Two reaction papers are required. They are to be written about reading assignments that have not yet been discussed in class. They may be handed in anytime prior to the due date that is marked in the Syllabus; they must be submitted before that homework assignment is discussed in class. You may consult me at anytime about a good topic for the reaction paper. Readings outside the required texts are not expected for the r-papers. The topics of your r-papers and your presentations should be different.

Length Each r-paper must be 3 full pages in double-spaced type. Margins all around not to exceed 1.00 inch. If you find it necessary to quoted extensively from the text, make a corresponding addition in your analysis of the material (paper not to exceed 4 pages total)
Method  Analysis of the reading is the main part (2 ½ pages or more). Address the question HOW? in this part. Begin with a general statement or hypothesis, then support it by referring to specific features of the text. For example, HOW is a certain theme developed through narration or a group of texts, use of psychological description and other techniques? HOW does the author define his standpoint through explicit statements? HOW does he compare with someone else who deals with similar subject matter, etc. A sensible start for the opening hypothesis is a critical comment from the textbook. Or you can use ideas that have come up in previous class discussions. Give a carefully reasoned interpretation of the author/text, based upon specific details of the reading. The reaction papers are supposed to be critical and analytic instead of descriptive and subjective.

Title  Finally, do not forget to give a title to your paper.

GUIDELINES FOR THE TERM PAPER

Term papers are 10-12 pages in double-spaced type; 12 font. The paper should have a title. The next to last page should be reserved for “Endnotes” (at least three endnotes are required). The last page is the “Bibliography” sheet with at least three references (one of which may be a CHT 4603 readings). For the concrete form of the endnotes and bibliography, consult either the Chicago Manual of Style or the MLA Handbook. Writing the reaction papers should help you decide a topic you’d like to explore more fully. The term paper should be primarily analytical. Focus on the HOW of a text or group of texts.

Use my office hours to discuss ideas for the paper—early on during the semester. I can point out materials available at the library, give guidance on style, explain how to write endnotes, etc. I am also willing to give comments on early drafts/parts of the paper.
Reference for Further Reading: (Most in the Automating Reserves, Canvas, or on reserve at Library West)


