

CHT 4603 (x 069E)/REL 4936 (x 2B32)/MEM 4931 (x 099F)

JOURNEY TO THE WEST

*All readings are in English*

**Spring 2017**

Class time: T 7 (1:55-2:45pm) / R 7-8 (1:55-3:50pm)

Classroom: LIT 0113

Instructor: Richard G. Wang

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00pm, & Thursday 4:00-5:00pm, or by appointment

**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:**

Anthony C. Yu, trans. and ed., *The Journey to the West*, revised edition, 4 vols. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2012.

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:

Andrew H. Plaks, *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel: Ssu ta ch'i-shu*, pp. 183-202.

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

Anthony C. Yu, trans. and ed., *The Journey to the West*, vol. 1, "Introduction," pp. 1-96.

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*." *Journal of Asian Studies* 34 (1975): 295-311.

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:

C.T. Hsia, *The Classic Chinese Novel*, 115-64.

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:

Andrew H. Plaks, *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel: Ssu ta ch'i-shu*, pp. 203-43.

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:

Andrew H. Plaks, *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel: Ssu ta ch'i-shu*, pp. 243-76.

\*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:

Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, "Alchemy and *Journey to the West*: The Cart-Slow Kingdom Episode," *Journal of Chinese Religions* 26 (1998): 51-66.

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:

Ching-erh Chang, "The Structure and Theme of the *Hsi-yu chi*," *Tamkang Review* 11.2 (1980): 169-88.

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:

Anthony C. Yu, "Two Literary Examples of Religious Pilgrimage: The *Commedia* and *The Journey to the West*," *History of Religions* 22.3 (1983): 202-30.

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:

Jing Wang, *The Story of Stone: Intertextuality, Ancient Chinese Stone Lore, and the Stone Symbolism in Dream of the Red Chamber, Water Margin, and The Journey to the West*, pp. 221-50.

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:

Robert F. Campany, "Demons, Gods and Pilgrims: The Demonology of the *Hsi-yu chi*," *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 7 (1985): 95-115.

\*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:

Ping Shao, "Huineng, Subhuti, and Monkey's Religion in *Xiyou ji*." *Journal of Asian Studies* 65.4 (2006): 713-40.

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:

Francisca Cho Bantly, "Buddhist Allegory in the *Journey to the West*," *Journal of Asian Studies* 49 (1989): 512-24.

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:

Richard G. Wang and Dongfeng Xu, "Three Decades' Reworking on the Monk, the Monkey, and the Fiction of Allegory," *Journal of Religion* 96.1 (2016): 102-21.

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)

- Adams, Roberta E. "Aspects of Authority in Wu Cheng'en's Journey to the West." In *Confucian Cultures of Authority*, eds. Peter D. Herschok and Roger T. Ames, pp. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Buddhism in the Classic Chinese Novel Journey to the West: Teaching Two Episodes." *ExEAS – Teaching Materials and Resources*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2015.  
<http://www.exeas.org/resources/buddhism-journey-to-west.html> (accessed Dec. 13, 2015).
- Bantly, Francisca Cho. "Buddhist Allegory in the *Journey to the West*." *Journal of Asian Studies* 48.3 (1989): 512-24.
- Bradeen, Ryan, and Jean Johnson. "Using Monkey to Teach Religions in China." *Education About Asia* (EAA), 10.2 (2005): 39-43.
- Brandauer, Frederick. "Violence and Buddhist Idealism in the *Xiyou* Novels." In *Violence in China: Essays in Culture and Counterculture*, eds. Stevan Harrell, pp. 115-48. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1990.
- Campany, Robert F. "Cosmogony and Self-Cultivation: The Demonic and the Ethical in Two Chinese Novels." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 14.1 (1986): 81-112.
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- Chang, Ching-erh. "The Structure and Theme of the *Hsi-yu chi*." *Tamkang Review* 11.2 (1980): 169-88.
- Dudbridge, Glen. *The Hsi-yu chi: A Study of Antecedents to the Sixteenth-Century Chinese Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Hundred-Chapter *Hsi-yu chi* and its Early Versions." *Asia Major*, N.S., 14.2 (1969): 141-91.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The *Xi you ji* Monkey and the Fruits of the Last Ten Years." In idem, *Books, Tales and Vernacular Culture: Selected Papers on China*, pp. 254-74. Leiden: Brill, 2005.
- Hsia, C. T. *The Classic Chinese Novel*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1968.
- Kao, Karl S.Y. "An Archetypal Approach to *Hsi-yu chi*." *Tamkang Review* 5 (1974): 63-97.
- Li, Qiancheng. *Fiction of Enlightenment: Journey to the West, Tower of Myriad Mirrors, and Dream of the Red Chamber*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2004.
- Liu, Ts'un-yan. "The Prototypes of *Monkey (Hsi-yu chi)*." *T'oung Pao* 51.1 (1964): 55-71.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Wu Ch'eng-en: His Life and Career." *T'oung Pao* 53.1-3 (1967): 1-97.
- Lung, Nai-yin. *An interpretation of the Hsi-yu chi Pilgrims in Terms of the Five Elements*. Yangmingshan: Chinese Culture University Press, 1988.

- Martinson, Paul. "Buddhist Pilgrim, Immortal Beast." *Journal of Religion* 65.3 (1985): 378-85.
- Mair, Victor H. "Suen Wu-kung=Hanumat? The Progress of a Scholarly Debate." In *Zhongyang yanjiuyuan dierjie guoji Hanxue huiyi lunwenji*, pp. 659-752. Taipei: Academia Sinica, 1989.
- Oldstone-Moore, Jennifer. "Alchemy and *Journey to the West*: The Cart-Slow Kingdom Episode." *Journal of Chinese Religions* 26 (1998): 51-66.
- Ōta, Tatsuo. "A New Study on the Formation of the *Hsi-yu chi*." *Acta Asiatica* 32 (1977): 96-113.
- Plaks, Andrew H. *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel: Ssu ta ch'i-shu*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987.
- Shahar, Meir. "The Lingyin Si Monkey Disciples and the Origins of Sun Wukong." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 52.1 (1992): 193-224.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015.
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- Widmer, Ellen. "*Hsi-yu Cheng-tao Shu* in the Context of Wang Ch'i's Publishing Enterprise." *Hanxue yanjiu* 6 (1988): 37-64.
- Wriggins, Sally Hovey. *Xuanzang: A Buddhist Pilgrim on the Silk Road*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1996.
- "Wu Ch'eng-en." In L. Carrington Goodrich et al., ed., *Dictionary of Ming Biography, 1368-1644*, pp. 1479-83. New York: Columbia University Press, 1976.
- Yan, Liu, and Wenjun Li. "A Comparison of Themes of The Journey to the West and The Pilgrim's Progress." *Theory and Practice in Language Studies* 3.7 (2013): 1243-49.
- Yen, Alsace. "A Technique of Chinese Fiction: Adaptation in the *Hsi-yu chi* with Focus on Chapter Nine." *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 1.2 (1979): 197-213.
- Yu, Anthony C. *Comparative Journeys: Essays on Literature and Religion East and West*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Formation of Fiction in *The Journey to the West*." *Asia Major*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, 21.1 (2008): 15-44.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Narrative Structure and the Problem of Chapter Nine in the *Hsi-yu chi*." *Journal of Asian Studies* 34.2 (1975): 295-311.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Readability: Religion and the Reception of Translation." *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 20 (1998): 89-100.
  - \_\_\_\_\_. "Religion and Literature in China: The 'Obscure Way' of *The Journey to the West*." In *Tradition and Creativity: Essays on East Asian Civilization*, ed. Ching-I Tu, pp. 109-54. New Brunswick: Transaction, 1987.
  - \_\_\_\_\_. "Two Literary Examples of Religious Pilgrimage: The *Commedia* and *The Journey to the West*." *History of Religions* 22.3 (1983): 202-30.
  - \_\_\_\_\_, tr. "Liu I-ming on How to Read the *Hsi-yu chi* (The Journey to the West)." In David Rolston, ed., *How to Read the Chinese Novel*, pp. 295-315. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.
  - Zhou, Zuyan. "Carnivalization in *The Journey to the West*: Cultural Dialogism in Fictional Festivity." *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 16 (1994): 69-92.