

**LIC-117-01 Introduction to Chinese Culture: Through Another Window
An Integrated Learning Community**

SPRING 2012

TR 12-2:45 6 Credits

NA-117

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Course description: This course will introduce the student to aspects of the Chinese world view through literature, film, philosophy and meditative/physical practice. Through a holistic approach to the balance of mind, body and spirit, students will explore the influences of Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and Communism on the literature, arts and theatre of China, in order to gain a global perspective on the importance of community and self in the Chinese world and in our society today. Students in this 6 credit learning community will receive credit for ENG 102 *Introduction to Literature* and THE-109 *Balance Through Acting*. ENG-111 *Chinese Literature* may be substituted for ENG 102

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major texts and traditions of Chinese Literature (translated into English) in their social, cultural and historical context
- Apply concepts from the philosophical foundations of China to literary theory
- Understand the Chinese conceptions of the individual in relation to family, community, government and Nature as shown through fiction, poetry, philosophy and drama
- Discover and evaluate primary and secondary sources in both class discussion and a research assignment
- Analyze instances of the variety of literary forms closely in terms of style, figurative language and convention.

Required Texts:

- Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*
- Owen, Stephen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911 (ACL)*
- Pa Chin, *Family*
- Rexroth, Kenneth *100 Poems from the Chinese*
- Handouts:
 - Zhang Jie, *Love Must Not Be Forgotten*
 - Ha Jin, *Saboteur*
 - Poetry influenced by China: Gary Snyder, Robert Creeley, W.S. Merwin
 - Selections from the *Dao de Jing*, the *Confucian Analects* and the Buddhist Sutras

Course Requirements:

- ENG 102 Students will be required to write a 5-10 page literary research paper;
- ENG 111 Students will be required to write two short essays and make a research presentation to the class
- **All** Students will be required to keep a daily journal
- **All** students will be required to have a midterm and a final project (film/power point/writing)
- **All** students are expected to engage in discussion and activities

- Have a folder in which to keep the many handouts

Grading:

Participation (attendance, discussion, journal)	20%
Midterm project	20%
ENG 102 and ENG 111 two short essays (15% each)	30%
ENG 102 Final Research Paper (100)	30%
ENG 111 Research Presentation (100)	30%

Course Overview:

Daily Curricula:

Quote of the day
 Meditation, music, journal writing
 Chinese Language
 Subject for the day, Discussion of readings, presentations
 Final reflection and meditation

Weeks 1-3 Introduction, Philosophy and Thought

China maps and timeline: concentration on the Shang, Han and Ming Dynasties
 Confucianism: (*Balance through Acting* - inter-relationality, give and take)
 Taoism: (*Balance through Acting* - balance, ritual, the art of stillness)
 Buddhism: (*Balance through Acting*- centering, meditation)
Handouts: 1. History of Taoism, excerpts from *The Dao de Jing*
 2. Confucianism

FILMS: *I Am*

Confucius: His Life and Legacy

1. Reading: Thurs., Feb. 2

(ACL) *Classics of Chinese Poetry, Zhou Dynasty and Warring States (1020-220 B.C.E.)*
 pp.3-9, Intro
 pp.53-57 Courtship, Marriage and Love

2. Reading: Tues., Feb. 7

Handout: ***The Doctrine of the Mean***, Confucius

**Tues., Feb 7 Guest presenter – Chinese Philosophy: Julien Farland, Prof. Philosophy.
Doctrine of the Mean: Teachings of Confucius

3. Reading: Thursday, Feb. 9 Daoist poet

(ACL) Li Bo (or Li Po), pp.397-404

4. Reading, Tues., 14

Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.C.E.)
 (ACL), pp. 365-390

5. Reading, Thurs., Feb. 16

Tang Dynasty continued
 Du Fu (or Tu Fu) (ACL) pp.413-424

Rexroth, 1-10

FILM: Raise High the Red Lantern

II. Weeks 4-6 Aesthetics

Art, architecture, calligraphy, drama (*Balance through Acting*-Peking Opera, storytelling, gesture, masks) poetry, clothing, language

6. Reading, Tues., Feb.21

Song Dynasty (960-1279 A.C.E.)

(ACL) pp.553-560

**Tues. Feb. 21 guest speaker: Dona Cady, Assist. Dean Humanities and Social Science
Chinese Aesthetics

7. Reading, Thurs., Feb. 23

Song Dynasty continued

(ACL) *The Songs of Romance*, pp. 571-584

Su Shi, *Account of a Visit to Lu Mountain*, pp.621-622

Updated Syllabus

Thurs., March 1

Wild Swans, pp. 1-25 (Warlords, Nationalism)

Tues., March 6

Wild Swans, pp. 26-140 (Japanese takeover of Manchuria, Northern China to Beijing)

Thurs., March 8

Wild Swans, pp 141-190(Communism, defeat and ouster of Japanese)

Spring Break

Tues., March 20

Finish *Wild Swans* (Famine, Cultural Revolution, Death of Mao)

HAVE RESEARCH PROPOSAL READY FOR DISCUSSION

Thurs., March 22

Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Rodman, Prof., Psychology: Family in China

Family, pp.1-44(pre and post WW II)

Tues., March 27

Family, pp. 44-100

Thurs., March 29 no school: Professional Development Day

Tues., April 3

Family, finish

Thurs., April 5

Guest Speaker, Rob Kaulfuss, Economics professor, China's Economy

Rough draft of research project/paper due: conferences

Tues., April 10

Handout “Saboteur,” short story by Ha Jin

Weeks 7-9 Family

Women, family, marriage (*Balance through Acting*-characterization and environment ↓)

1. Self and History: Du Fu (ACL. 235-243)

The rise of popular culture: Yuan Drama (ACL. 391-392; 422-448)

2. The rise of urban life and vernacular fiction

handout :*The Ballad of Mulan*, excerpt,

3. Cao Xueqin: excerpts from *The Dream in the Red Chamber* (ACL, 509-523)

Guest presenter – Psychology and the family: Dr. Michael Rodman, Prof., Psychology

FILM: *Raise High the Red Lantern*

Weeks 10&11 Economy

Food, ritual, agriculture

1. Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, pp. 1-281

Guest presenter – Economics of China: Rob Kaulfuss, Prof. Social Science

FILM: TBA

Weeks 12-14 East/West

Conflicts, assimilation

1. Li Po, pp. 20-43, *Rexroth*

Handout: Ezra Pound, Gary Snyder, W.S. Merwin

2. Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*, pp. 281- finish

Guest presenter –The Silk Road: Dr. David Kalivas. Prof. History

FILM: *To Live* (1940)

Weeks 15 &16 Revolution/Post-Mao

Propaganda, politics, current affairs

Introduction to Modern Chinese Literature: revolution in politics, language and literature

1. handout The father of modern Chinese literature: Lu Xun and his *Preface to Call to Arms*

2. handout Jie Zhang : *Love Must Not Be Forgotten*,

handout Ha Jin, *Saboteur*,

handout Ding Ling: *When I was in Xia Village*

3. Pa Chin, *Family*, entire novel (1-186 pp)

Final Class: Chinese Food