

Chinese 4840/5840: Introduction to Classical Chinese Poetry

Professor Jack W. Chen (jwc8v@virginia.edu)

Spring 2017 / Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00–12:15 pm / New Cabell 058

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 10–11 and by appointment

Course Description

This class is an introduction to reading classical Chinese poetry in the original language. It is intended for students who have (at least) intermediate level background in modern Chinese and some familiarity with classical Chinese. This course will be a kind of hybrid of literary reading seminar, high-level language course, and translation workshop. Our primary goals will be to attain a basic familiarity with classical Chinese poetic vocabulary, diction, and syntax, as well as to explore the complexities of literary translation. If time permits, we may also read through selections from contemporary theories of translation.

We will cover (approximately) one or two poems per two class meetings, working through the vocabulary and basic understanding of the poem(s) on the first meeting and presenting our finished translations on the second meeting. NOTE: Schedule of readings may be adjusted if the class requires more time or less time to cover the translations each week.

Readings

Our main textbook will be the Sanmin shuju 三民書局 modern edition of the *Tangshi sanbaishou* 唐詩三百首, which contains annotations to the poems, modern language (*baihua* 白話) translation, and brief critical appreciations. I will also provide selections from contemporary texts on translation to supplement our reading through of the poems.

Evaluation

Course evaluation will be based on three criteria:

- 30% Completed weekly translations.
- 30% Biweekly vocabulary quizzes.
- 40% Final translation project (three short poems of your choice or one long poem).

A+ = 100–98 / A = 97–94 / A- = 93–90 / B+ = 89–87 / B = 86–83 / B- = 82–80

C+ = 79–77 / C = 76–73 / C- = 72–70 / D+ = 69–67 / D = 66–63 / D- = 62–60 / F = 59–0

Active classroom participation will be required (and assumed), which means that any absences must be cleared in advance. If you miss more than two classes without prior notice, your final grade will be lowered by 5% for each subsequent class missed.

Extra credit: You will have the opportunity to increase your final grade by 5 points over the course of the semester by attending lectures sponsored by the East Asia Center. Each lecture that

you attend will count as 1 point towards your final grade. You will be expected to attend the whole lecture and to send me a brief report on the main points of the lecture afterwards (or to show me your notes taken during the lecture).

Schedule of Readings

Thurs., Jan. 19: Introduction to translating Tang poetry and the pentasyllabic quatrain (*wuyan jueju* 五言絕句). 唐詩三百首：王維，鹿柴 (Poem 224)

Tues., Jan. 24: Discussion of translations for 王維，鹿柴 (Poem 224).

Thurs., Jan. 26: 唐詩三百首：王維，竹里館 (Poem 225); and 王維，送別 (Poem 226).

Tues., Jan. 31: Discussion of translations for 王維，竹里館 (Poem 225); and 王維，送別 (Poem 226). Quiz 1.

Thurs. Feb. 2: 唐詩三百首：孟浩然，宿建德江 (Poem 231); 孟浩然，春曉 (Poem 232); and 李白，夜思 (Poem 233).

Tues., Feb. 7: Discussion of translations for 孟浩然，宿建德江 (Poem 231); and 孟浩然，春曉 (Poem 232); and 李白，夜思 (Poem 233).

Thurs., Feb. 9: 唐詩三百首：王之渙，登鸕雀樓 (Poem 236). Discussion of the heptasyllabic quatrain (七言絕句)：王昌齡，芙蓉樓送辛漸 (Poem 264); and 王昌齡，閨怨 (Poem 265).

Tues., Feb. 14: Discussion of translations for 王之渙，登鸕雀樓 (Poem 236); 王昌齡，芙蓉樓送辛漸 (Poem 264); and 王昌齡，閨怨 (Poem 265). Quiz 2.

Thurs., Feb. 16: 唐詩三百首：劉禹錫，春詞 (Poem 281); 白居易，後宮詞 (Poem 282); and 杜牧，寄揚州韓綽判官 (Poem 292).

Tues. Feb. 21: Discussion of translations for 劉禹錫，春詞 (Poem 281); 白居易，後宮詞 (Poem 282); and 杜牧，寄揚州韓綽判官 (Poem 292).

Thurs., Feb. 23: Discussion of the pentasyllabic “ancient-style” poem (五言古詩). 唐詩三百首：李白，月下獨酌 (Poem 6).

Tues., Feb. 28: Discussion of translations for 李白，月下獨酌 (Poem 6). Quiz 3.

Thurs., Mar. 2: 唐詩三百首：王維，青谿 (Poem 15).

Tues. Mar. 7: SPRING BREAK

Thurs., Mar. 9: SPRING BREAK

Tues., Mar. 14: Discussion of translations for 王維, 青谿 (Poem 15).

Thurs., Mar. 16: Class Canceled.

Tues., Mar. 21: 唐詩三百首: 杜甫, 夢李白 (其一) (Poem 11).

Thurs., Mar. 23: Discussion of translations for 杜甫, 夢李白 (其一) (Poem 11). Quiz 4.

Tues., Mar. 28: 唐詩三百首: 杜甫, 夢李白 (其二) (Poem 12).

Thurs. Mar. 30: Discussion of translations for 杜甫, 夢李白 (其二) (Poem 12).

Tues., Apr. 4: 唐詩三百首: 孟浩然, 秋登蘭山寄張五 (Poem 18).

Thurs. Apr. 6: Discussion of translations for 孟浩然, 秋登蘭山寄張五 (Poem 18). Quiz 5.

Tues., Apr. 11: Discussion of pentasyllabic regulated poetry (五言律詩). 唐詩三百首: 張九齡, 望月懷遠 (Poem 91); and 李白, 贈孟浩然 (Poem 100).

Thurs., Apr. 13: Discussion of translations for 張九齡, 望月懷遠 (Poem 91); and 李白, 贈孟浩然 (Poem 100).

Tues., Apr. 18: 唐詩三百首: 李白, 送友人 (Poem 102); and 杜甫, 月夜 (Poem 105). Quiz 6.

Thurs., Apr. 20: Class canceled. CHOOSE POEMS FOR FINAL PROJECT

Tues., Apr. 25: GINKGO

Thurs., Apr. 27: Presentation of Final Project.

Tues., May 2: Presentation of Final Project.

Tues., May 9: Final Translation Projects Due.