

HUM 203 -3 Great Texts in the Humanities III

Course Description:

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 as Shakespeare's dramatic works in Chinese literary history and has greatly influenced Chinese minds. It is also a great 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. In order to understand some of the universal themes such as Buddhism and enlightenment from another perspective, we will also read *Siddhartha* a novel by German writer Hermann Hesse as a comparison.

This course is for students who wish to learn about Chinese culture through an interesting and accessible text.

Required Texts:

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

Hermann Hesse, translated by Sherab C. Kohn, *Siddhartha*. Shambhala, 2000

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Tutorial (preparation & discussion)	15%
Midterm	20%
Presentations (2)	25%
Term Paper	30%