Spring 2-1-2018

CHIN 380.01A: Chinese Folktales

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Instructor: Dr. Zhen Cao
Office: LA 438              Phone: 243-2154

Office Hours: M.W.F. 1pm – 2pm
              TU, THUR 11am – 12 noon

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Text Books:
1. Tang Dynasty Stories
2. Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio
3. Favorite Folktales of China (John Minford)
4. Folk Tales of China (Wolfram Eberhard)

Class Meetings: M.W.F. 2:00pm to 2:50pm

Classroom: L.A. 140

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to have the students taste Chinese folktales of different times, from different cultural sources (nationalities/ethnic groups) and of a variety of themes. Upon completion of this course, students will have some authentic knowledge and true understanding, however little, of the Chinese cultures and civilization.

Grading: Straight 100 point method will be used for this course. 100 points are allocated as follows:

Tests: 20 X 2 = 40
10 quizzes 2 X 10 = 20
(provinces, neighboring countries, ethnic groups, dynasties, and traditional holidays)
two-page paper 10
(on The Confucian Social Way or the Taoist Natural Way)
Class presentation 15
Final paper/project 15

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
Attendance and make-up tests policy:

During the whole semester a total of three absences (excused or unexcused) are allowed without penalty. Thereafter, two points deduction is applied each occurrence to the final grade. No make-up test will be arranged except for emergency cases.

Tentative Schedule

Week of Monday Jan. 22nd.

Monday: Goals, plans and requirements of the course

Wen: definition on folk tales: forms, themes, purposes, authorship, survivability and etc.

Fri: Chinese legends on creation:

  Pagu story of Creation of the world vs. Christian version

  Video Clip

  Huaxi Shi, Fuxi and Nvwa

  Fuxi

  Nvwa

  Nvwa clipstory of creation of human beings

  Video

  Nvwa mending the sky vs. the Deluge

  Video Clip

Week of Monday Jan. 29th

Mon: creation legends continues, and Chinese zodiacs

Wen: Chinese zodiacs continues, Taoist 3 worlds, Upper, Middle and Under

  Video Clip: 1st episode of Weaving Girl & Cowboy (5 min)

  Chinese zodiac: 12 year circle

  Chinese zodiac 12 time periods
Chinese zodiac: 12 months of agriculture calendar

Fri: preparation of Quiz One: Chinese provinces (handout)

Chinese New Year

Video Clip

Week of Monday Feb. 5th

Tang Dynasty Stories

Friday: Quiz One (provinces)

Further Important Information:

1. This course uses pluses and minuses in its grading. The lowest credit-receiving grade is D minus, the highest possible course grade a straight A, not A+.

2. Note that you need to select the traditional grading option if you are planning to have this course count toward fulfillment of the Chinese Minor and/or General Education requirements.

3. Auditors: Anyone auditing the class must formally enroll as an auditor.

4. Anyone with a learning or medical disability and in need of special arrangements must inform us of this fact at the beginning of the course. People with such disabilities must provide documentary proof of their status.