PAAS 353 - Survey of Classical Chinese Literature

PAAS 353-23654: A02: Genres and Textual Mechanisms

Term: SPRING 2020
Jan 06, 2020 - Apr 03, 2020, Mondays & Thursdays, 3:30 pm - 4:50 pm, Bob Wright Centre A104
Instructor: Lianbin DAI

Course description:

This course explores the main genres and textual mechanisms of Classical Chinese literature from pre-Qin (*The Book of Songs* [*Shijing* 詩經]) through 1800 (*The Dream of the Red Chamber* [*Hong lou meng* 紅樓夢]). We will intensively read selected masterpieces in different genres, examining how the genres formed and developed in Chinese culture and how the generic rules shaped the writing and reading of these masterpieces. We will cover the *Shijing*, the Pre-Qin philosophical writing, the Chu-elegy, historiography, rhapsody, Tang-Song prose and poetry, and Ming-Qing drama and fiction. By the end of this course, students should be able to identify the main genres and textual mechanisms of Classical Chinese literature, discuss in a historical and critical way Classical Chinese literary pieces and phenomena, and understand the patterns of writing and reading in traditional Chinese culture.

Proposed assignments:
Attendance (10%); participation (10%); mid-term: book review (30%); final-exam: research paper (50%)

Proposed reading list:
We will have an electronic course pack containing selected literary pieces in Chinese (of which English translations are available upon request), and as well some journal articles and book chapters in Chinese or English.