**Syllabus**

**CHIN 312: *Classical Chinese***

Dr. Jim Bonk

Office hours: Friday 3-5, Taylor 208

This course provides an introduction to classical Chinese, the shared written language of premodern East Asia. The language is an essential tool for advanced historical, literary, or cultural study in any part of East Asia. The course provides an introduction to texts that were widely-read across the region as well as a selection of Chinese historical documents. These texts will include historical writings from Sima Qian’s *Shiji*; biographies from Liu Xiang’s *Lienü zhuan*; and excerpts from Daoist and Confucian classics such as *Zhuangzi* and *Mengzi*.

**Textbooks**

Main text (available on jstor.org):

* Paul Rouzer, *A New Practical Primer of Literary Chinese* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007). NOTE: this textbook is designed for a full year course; we will attempt to complete the first 23 of 40 texts.

Recommended but not required:

* Paul Kroll, *A Student’s Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese* (Leiden: Brill, 2015).

Other resources:

* Ctext.org: a digitized collection of most important early Chinese texts
* Michael A. Fuller, *An Introduction to Literary Chinese*, Rev. Ed. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004).

**Learning objectives**

* Students will learn the basic grammar and vocabulary of classical Chinese
* Students will be familiar with the range of genres written in classical Chinese
* Students will be able to use tools for translating and analyzing classical Chinese texts in their original context
* Students will gain a greater knowledge of the East Asian cultural tradition and become familiar with non-Western conceptual schemes and modes of thought

**Grading**

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| **Attendance and participation: 30%** | 1% will be deducted for each class missed; 0.5% will be deducted for each class you arrive more than 5 minutes late.To receive your participation grade, you must bring a print-out (or handwritten copy) of the assigned reading with your notes. Notes can include tentative translations, questions about grammar, definitions of characters, etc. Show me the print-out at the beginning of each class to receive your grade. |
| **Quizzes: 20% (4 x 5%)** | Further information will be provided before each quiz. |
| **Homework for Lessons 1-11: 10%** | Homework assignments are in Rouzer (see schedule for details). |
| **Translation and analysis project: 40%*** Weekly report with translations and analysis (8 x 2%)
* Class discussion (4%)
* Final translation (10%)
* Final analysis (10%)
 | Meet with Prof. Bonk on Friday, January 25 to select text(s) and create a weekly schedule. The text can be related to your individual research interests. Each Friday, beginning on February 8, submit a brief report with translations and preliminary analysis, according to your weekly schedule.Circulate your text with translation and lead a class discussion (April 24, 29, May 1)Submit a paper consisting of your final translation and analysis.  |

**Anecdotes from the Garden of Stories 說苑 (Rouzer, Lessons 1-10)**

Monday, January 13

* Rouzer, Lesson 1

Wednesday, January 15

* Rouzer, Lesson 2 (and work on Lesson 2 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 1.3, 1.4, 1.6

Friday, January 17

* Rouzer, Lesson 3 (and work on Lesson 3 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 2.2, 2.6

Monday, January 21 MLK Day

Wednesday, January 23

* Rouzer, Lesson 4 (and work on Lesson 4 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 3.2, 3.3

Friday, January 25

* Rouzer, Lesson 5 (and work on Lesson 5 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 4.8
* Meet with Prof. Bonk to discuss individual project

Monday, January 28

* No reading to prepare
* Submit HW: 5.3, 5.6, 5.7; Lessons 1-5 Review

Wednesday, January 30

* Rouzer, Lesson 6 (and work on Lesson 6 HW in class)
* HW: No homework

Friday, February 1

* Rouzer, Lesson 7 (and work on Lesson 7 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 6.1, 6.5

Monday, February 4

* Rouzer, Lesson 8 (and work on Lesson 8 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 7.3, 7.5

Wednesday, February 6

* Rouzer, Lesson 9 (and work on Lesson 9 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 8.3

Friday, February 8

* Rouzer, Lesson 10 (and work on Lesson 10 HW in class)
* Submit HW: 9.3, 9.5
* Submit report #1

Monday, February 11

* No reading to prepare
* Submit HW: 10.2; Review, Lessons 6-10

Wednesday, February 13

* Quiz #1

**Biographies of the Assassin-Retainers 刺客列傳 (Rouzer, Lessons 11-18)**

Friday, February 15

* Rouzer, Lesson 11 (and work on Lesson 11 HW in class)
* Submit report #2

Monday, February 18

* Rouzer, Lesson 12
* Submit HW: 11.3

Wednesday, February 20

* Review session

Friday, February 22

* Rouzer, Lesson 13
* Submit report #3

Monday, February 25

* Rouzer, Lesson 14

Wednesday, February 27

* Review session

Friday, March 1

* Rouzer, Lesson 15
* Submit report #4

Monday, March 4

* Rouzer, Lesson 16

Wednesday, March 6

* Review

Friday, March 8

* Rouzer, Lesson 17
* Submit report #5

Spring Break – March 9 to March 24

Monday, March 25

* Topic TBA
* \*\*Senior IS Due at 5:00 pm\*\*

Wednesday, March 27

* Rouzer, Lesson 18

Friday, March 29

* Review
* Submit report #6

Monday, April 1

* Quiz #2

**Biographies of Noted Women 列女傳 (Lessons 19-21)**

Wednesday, April 3

* Topic TBA

Friday, April 5

* Rouzer, Lesson 19
* Submit report #7

Monday, April 8

* Rouzer, Lesson 20

Wednesday, April 10

* Review session

Friday, April 12

* Rouzer, Lesson 21
* Submit report #8

Monday, April 15

* Quiz #3

**Excerpts from the Mencius 孟子 (Lessons 22-23)**

Wednesday, April 17

* Work on final project

Friday, April 19

* Rouzer, Lesson 22

Monday, April 22

* Rouzer, Lesson 23

Wednesday, April 24

* Presentations

Friday, April 26 – IS Symposium (class cancelled)

Monday, April 29

* Presentations

Wednesday, May 1

* Presentations

Friday, May 3 (Last Day of Classes)

* Evaluations and conclusions
* Submit paper

**Exam week (May 6-9)**

* Quiz #4 (take home) due by May 9