



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

## **ASIA\_V 442 - Lives of Chinese Books**

**Bruce Rusk**

This is research seminar for Asian Studies majors introduces research skills for the humanities. This year we will be focusing on the Book of Changes (Yi jing) and its complex history. The book survives in several different versions, many with multiple layers of explanation by commentators, different accounts of its purpose and origin and divergent interpretations of its contents. It was used for many different purposes: as a manual for divination about the future, as a guide to cosmology, and as a model for literary creation.

We will focus on how to make sense of a text with such a complex existence and how to ask questions about it that can be answered through research. The course requires no knowledge of languages other than English, but sources in Asian languages may be used for research projects.

**Mode of Delivery:** In Person

### **Sample Readings**

The Classic of Changes: A New Translation of the I Ching as Interpreted by Wang Bi, translated and edited by Richard John Lynn.

Richard J. Smith, The I Ching: A Biography. Zhu Xi. The Original Meaning of the Yijing: Commentary on the Scripture of Change. Translated by Joseph Adler.

### **Assignments**

Participation in Class Activities|30

Short Writing Assignments|15

Final Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography|10

Final Paper Draft|5

Abstract and Presentation|10

Research Paper|30