

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

ASIA_V 413 - Pre-Modern Chinese Poetry (Tang to Qing)

Kay Duffy

The poetry of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) has long been recognized as a pinnacle of cultural achievement, and translations of Wang Wei, Du Fu, Li Shangyin, and other poets continue to proliferate. What was it that made poetry so important during the Tang, and why is it that Tang poetry is still cherished the world over?

In this course, students will become familiar with the major forms and conventions of Tang poetry; with the role of poetry in the lives of major literary figures of this period; and with this society in which the writing, reading, and appreciation of poetry came to be imbued with such significance. We will also reflect on what these poems have meant to people in different places and times and on what poetry means for people today.

Familiarity with the Chinese language is not a prerequisite. The language of instruction in this course is English.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Zong-qi Cai, ed. How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.

Wiebke Denecke, Wai-Yee Li, and Xiaofei Tian, eds. The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Michael A. Fuller. An Introduction to Chinese Poetry. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2017.

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Mid-term Examination (1)|20

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