



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

## **ASIA\_V 342 - Chinese Literature in Translation: The Vernacular Tradition**

**C. D. Alison Bailey**

This course will focus on the development and flowering of Chinese novels in the Ming and Qing dynasties written in the vernacular, as opposed to classical, language.

For example, we will explore power struggles, pride and tragic failure, violence, masculinity, and heroism in the grandly sweeping historical epic Three Kingdoms and themes such as utopias/dystopias, nostalgia and remembrance, gardens as sites of beauty and threatened havens, the intimacies of domestic life and family dynamics, the complexities of gender roles and duties, and love and death in Story of the Stone. We will attempt to appreciate these texts as both works of art and significant cultural artifacts, and, through reading them, enter into worlds and contexts both familiar and strange, beautiful and difficult, and always profound.

**Mode of Delivery:** In Person

### **Sample Readings**

Luo Guanzhong, Three Kingdoms, trans. Moss Roberts (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. Abridged version. Paper.

Cao Xueqin, The Story of the Stone, Vol. 1: A Dream of Golden Days, trans. David Hawkes (Penguin, 1973, paper). The first volume of a 5-volume unabridged translation.

### **Assignments**

- A) Two reading responses: 30%
- B) In-class midterm: 15%
- C) One short take-home analytical essay: 20%
- D) Annotated bibliography: 15%
- E) Participation in class, group, and on-line discussions and in-class written commentaries showing familiarity with the required readings: 20%