



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

ASIA_V 441 - Masterworks of Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation

C. D. Alison Bailey

This course focuses on close and extensive readings of short vernacular fiction from the 1620s Sanyan (三言 Three Words) collections edited by Feng Menglong 馮夢龍 (1574-1646). We will be entering the busy, noisy, sometimes crude and sometimes funny, and often moving world of late imperial China – meeting merchants, detectives, passionate men and women, greedy and violent villains, upright and corrupt officials, and supernatural creatures both good and bad... Not always happy endings, but the bad guys never win! Using the “Four Vices of Excess” (wine, sex, wealth, and wrath) and the concept of qing 情 (passion, desire, genuine feeling) as loose discursive frameworks, we will discuss representations of the self and the emotions, late Ming social phenomena and anxieties, gender, violence, and conceptions of order and disorder within and outside the texts.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Stories Old and New: A Ming Dynasty Collection. Compiled by Feng Menglong. Translated by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang. University of Washington Press, 2000.

Stories to Caution the World: A Ming Dynasty Collection. As above, 2005. Stories to Awaken the World. As Above, 2009.

Assignments

- A) Two individual reading responses: 30%
- B) Two short analytical essays or projects: 50%
- C) Engaged participation in in-class, group, and on-line discussions and in-class written commentaries showing familiarity with the required readings: 20%