

Classical Chinese Narrative

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Hours: 36 (6hrs/w)

1. Course Overview

Before the rise of the Ming-Qing novel form, Chinese narrative in earlier periods took the form of tales, legends, and chronicles that straddled literary and historical writing, constituting an innovative and influential body of narrative art, which reached its first high peak in *Shiji* 史記 (*Records of the Grand Historian*). This course will introduce students to narrative forms and techniques used in *Shiji* and the classical essayistic writing (Guwen 古文) influenced by it. It will provide students with a historical understanding of the development of Chinese narrative and teach them formal strategies of reading.

2. Weekly Syllabus

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Classical Chinese Narrative 中國敘事學概說
	Introduction to Classical Written Chinese 文言文概說
2	[Readings] “Gaozu benji”高祖本紀 and “Xiangyu benji”項羽本紀 from <i>Shiji</i> 史記 “Sangyi zhuan”桑梓傳 by Ouyang Xiu 歐陽修
	Intertextuality: the art of the discourse crossing the boundaries between literature and history 「互見」：跨越文、史的話語藝術
	The Genre Variations of Classical Chinese 文言語體類型
3	[Readings] “Boyi liezhua”伯夷列傳 from <i>Shiji</i> 史記 “Zhongshu Guotuotuo zhuan”種樹郭橐駝傳 and “Fuban zhuan”蝮蠖傳 by Liu Zongyuan 柳宗元
	Writing between Philosophy and History: Biographies with argumentative discourse as the main part of the text 子、史之間：論說為主的傳記形式
	The Style Variations of Classical Argumentative Essays 文言論說體
4	[Readings] “Youxia liezhuan”游俠列傳 from <i>Shiji</i> 史記 “Wuliu xiansheng zhuan”五柳先生傳 by Tao Yuanming 陶淵明
	Recluse Scholars and Roaming Swordsmen I 隱士與游俠 (一)
	The Style Variations of Classical Narrative 文言敘事體

5	[Readings] “Qiuranke zhuan” 虬髯客傳 by Du Guangting 杜光庭 “Fang Shanzi zhuan” 方山子傳 by Sushi 蘇軾
	Recluse Scholars and Roaming Swordsmen II 隱士與游俠 (二)
	The language of Classical essayistic Writing in Tang and Song 唐宋古文語言
6	[Readings] “Lü Buwei liezhuan” 呂不韋列傳 and “Huozhi liezhuan: Fan li” 貨殖列傳 (范蠡) from Shiji 史記
	Merchants and Politics 商人與政治
	The language of Classical Writing in Qin and Han 秦漢散文語言

3. Grading Breakdown

Participation	20%
Presentation	20%
Assignment	30%
Final Paper	30%

4. Required Texts:

Handouts.

All readings will be available online.