ANS 372/CL 323  Decoding Classical Chinese Poetry  Dr. C.M. Lai
Fall 2017  (Public copy)
Mezes 1.204
MWF 1-2 pm  
**Office Hours:**  Mondays, Fridays 12-1 p.m.
Mondays 4-5 p.m. (by appointment only)

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**Other Required and Supplementary Reading and Translations:**
*Posted on the Canvas Course Site*

**Required Events:**
**Wednesday 10/4** – Mid-autumn Moon Festival -- Viewing of the Full Moon
**Friday 11/10 afternoon (tba)** – Guest Lecture by Dr. Allison Miller (Art History, Southwestern University) Meyerson Conference Room WCH 4.118  (no class meeting on this day)

**Recommended:**
Sculpture by Ai Weiwei:  
[https://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/ai-weiwei/](https://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/ai-weiwei/)

**Course Description:**
Fall 2017 Focus: Landscape Poetry and Painting

This course will provide an introduction to the classical Chinese poetic tradition and is open to all students. No previous background in Chinese language, culture or literature is required. Readings in English translation will encompass a selective sampling of poetry from as early as the seventh century B.C.E. through the 9th century. Lectures and discussions will focus on the literary, cultural, historical, social, political, philosophical, and religious background against which these representative works in poetry arose. While background reading will be assigned, the focus of lectures and discussion will be on the primary works of poetry, and on the relationship of poetry and painting in the Chinese tradition. Course emphasis will be given to poetry of the medieval period of the Tang dynasty (618-907) which is commonly referred to as the “golden age” of Chinese poetry. Intensive focus and close readings will be given to poetry by four of pre-modern China’s greatest and most beloved poets, Tao Yuanming 陶淵明 (or Tao Qian 陶潛) (365-427), Wang Wei 王維 (701-761), Li Bo 李白 (or Li Bai) (701-762), and Du Fu 杜甫 (712-770).

The poet’s response to the human condition will form the framework within which we will consider our role as readers and our interpretation of the poetic treatment of the human response. Lectures, readings and class discussion will examine these ideas and concepts in the context of landscape, known as “mountains and water” (*shan shui* 山水) in Chinese literary memory. Through this methodical process, we will begin to *decode* the literary language of classical Chinese poetry and poetic craft. It is through this process of deciphering what can be puzzling or mysterious that the reader may emerge with
yet another response to the human condition. Herein lies the allure of classical Chinese poetry – we can still find our way to the Chinese poet’s world today.

**Global Cultures**: This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

**Course Grade based on:**
(Details on Canvas course site)
- *There is a class attendance policy*
- *There is no final exam in this course.*

I. **Discussion (20%)**
  10% Class and online discussion, participation and “preparedness”
    - In-class Informal Writing
  10% Weekly Lead Discussant work

II. **Writing and Oral Presentation (75%)**
  50% Reading and Discussion Questions / Expanded Written Responses (DQ)
  20% Critical Writing (Response Essay, Research Inquiry Project)
  5% Oral Presentation and leading discussion (selected topic)

III. **Creative Writing: imitation and matching poems (5%)**
  5% Creative Writing: imitation and matching poems (evaluated CR/NC)

**Additional Course Expectations:**
- *This course will be graded on the Plus/Minus system.*
- *No late assignments are accepted. There is no makeup of missed discussion or presentations. Your final course grade will be based on work submitted.*
- There is no written final exam for this course.
- Academic honesty is imperative. Acts of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade.
- **Laptop/Tablet Use Policy** – Laptops/Tablets may ONLY be used for your designated presentation day and for designated final project days
- **Any Other Electronic Devices Use Policy** – *All devices must be turned off during class.* Any use of these devices, including texting, websurfing, etc. will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). **Repeat offenders will result in a filing of a report of academic problems.**
- **There is a class attendance policy for this course.**
  Quality class discussion is vital for success in this course and thus attendance is incumbent for such participation. As well, class attendance is vital for lectures (on background on cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts) and for discussion of language learning and translation concepts, all of which cannot be replaced by reading outlines or notes online. There is no made-up for in-class writing and oral presentation/lead discussant work.
ATTENDANCE POLICY – More than 5 excused/unexcused absences, your final class discussion/participation grade will result in a failing grade.  
*It is your responsibility to inform me regarding extenuating circumstances.*

More than 10 absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Religious Holidays – Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin that you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

Use of Canvas
This course uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Canvas can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notifications of these disruptions will be posted on the Canvas login page. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Canvas is available at [http://canvas.utexas.edu](http://canvas.utexas.edu). Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

The UT Library
The UT Library offers resource help and many services. The following link is for Undergraduate Students:
Website: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu](http://www.lib.utexas.edu)

The Undergraduate Writing Center
The Undergraduate Writing Center provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing to UT undergraduates on a drop-in basis or by appointment. Location: PCL 2.330.
Website: [http://uwc.utexas.edu/](http://uwc.utexas.edu/)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University of Texas Honor Code
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

University Electronic Mail Notification Policy
*Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students*
All students should become familiar with the University’s official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at [http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html](http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html).

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements. Note: if you are an employee of the University, your e-mail address in Canvas is your employee address.

Documented Disability Statement
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. See Website below for more information:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php