

English 4310 Major Authors:

Du Fu and Li Bai

Spring '12

Dr. Bryce Christensen Office: BC300G // Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9-10; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2; Wednesdays 10-11.

Course meeting time and location: 1 p.m., MWF, BU 106

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course web-site: Canvas

Text: *The Selected Poems of Du Fu*, trans. David Hinton (New Directions, 978-0811211000, List price \$13.95 paperback, 172 pages); *The Selected Poems of Li Bai*, trans. by David Hinton (New Directions, 978-0811213233, List price \$14.95, 134 pages); supplemented by Electronic Reserve material drawn from *The Analects of Confucius*, Lao-tzu's *Taoteching*, and commentaries by Mencius, and Chuang-tzu.

Course focus: A study of China's two greatest classical poets, Du Fu and Li Bai, with appropriate investigation of the historical and cultural context in which they did their work.

Course objectives	Activities	Assessment
Identify, describe, and compare the literary features of a variety of poetic genres written during a medieval Chinese dynasty.	Readings and discussions of the work of Tu Fu and Li Bai as Tang Dynasty poets who wrote in a variety of classical genres	Discussion-board postings, group presentation, group presentation, two short essays and a major final research essay, midterm and final examinations.
Evaluate how perspective and background inform the reading experience.	Readings and discussion of the historical background of Du Fu and Li Bai and their responses to Confucian and Taoist thought; readings and discussion of the dramatic interpretive and ideological changes in modern Chinese responses to Du Fu.	Discussion-board postings, two short essays and a major final research essay, midterm and final examinations.

Conduct research and apply a range of literary theories and critical perspectives through close readings and analysis.	Explore various translations of the primary texts by Du Fu and Li Bai; assess the work of international scholars bringing various theoretical and cultural perspectives to bear on the work of these two poets.	Group presentation, two short essays and a major final research essay.
Articulate critical positions and interpretations.	Individual and group research and writing on literary, cultural, and social issues encountered in reading the work of Du Fu and Li Bai and background texts.	Discussion-board postings, group presentation, two short essays and a major final research essay.

Students will be asked to write three papers: two three-five page personal/critical response to one of the assigned readings; a ten-twelve page research essay dealing with a critical, cultural, or textual issue germane to Du Fu and Li Bai. This research paper must engage not only the primary texts but also relevant professional scholarship. In these essays, students will demonstrate the ability to frame and support a perceptive thesis for a sophisticated audience. Please note sample student essays posted on Canvas (Assignment section) as models for these assignments. These papers should conform to the rules for format and documentation set by the Modern Language Association.

Note also that as part of their preparation for the mid-term and final exams, students will be asked to select and commit to memory meaningful passages (of at least eight lines) from either Du Fu or Li Bai being studied. (For the rationale behind this course requirement, see Clara Claiborne Park, “The Mother of the Muses: In Praise of Memory,” *The Anatomy of Memory: An Anthology* [Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996], 173-189.)

Due dates for formal essays: Essay 1: Feb. 6th; Essay 2: Mar. 7th; Essay 3: Apr. 23rd.

Each essay must be submitted via Canvas by midnight on the due date.

As part of their participation in the class, students are regularly expected to post content-related postings on the Discussion Board of the course website. Please pay attention to the prompts that appear on the Discussion Board and to the due dates for postings indicated on the course calendar on the course website.

Test Dates: Mid-term: Mar. 9th; Final Exam: May 2nd (1 p.m.).

Grading: Final grades for the course will be based on the following formula:

Essays 35%
Two exams: 35%

Group Presentation (providing social, cultural, biographical, and/or critical perspective on one assigned author): 10%

Discussion-Board Postings: 10%

Participation (attendance; in-class quizzes and homework assignments): 10%

Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution: 91-100 A, 88-90 A-, 84-87 B+, 81-83 B, 76-80 B-, 73-75 C+, 70-72 C, 67-69 C-, 64-66 D+, 61-63 D, 57-60 D-, 56 and below F.

Regular attendance is required at all class meetings. Students who miss class because of participation in athletics, forensics, student government, or other university-related activities will receive participation credit for the class missed only if they submit a paragraph explaining how they will compensate for activities and discussions held in class. A separate paragraph must be submitted for each absence.

Late work: Late work will be penalized one letter grade. No makeup work will be accepted more than one week late except in cases of medical or other documented emergencies. *Late work will be graded without comment.*

Revision policy: The three essays may be revised and re-submitted for up to a full-letter-grade re-evaluation. A revised essay must be submitted within one week of the grade for the original essay being posted on Canvas and must carry a headnote indicating the nature and reason(s) for the revisions.

Writing conferences: Though not required, writing conferences with the professor can help students to write essays that satisfy course requirements.

For reading assignments listed below, DH refers to the David Hinton translations of Du Fu and Li Bai found in the two textbooks required for this course; EP refers to the Ezra Pound translations of Li Bai, found on Electronic Reserve (ER); KH refers to the Keith Holyoak translations of Du Fu and Li Bai found on ER; DY refers to the David Young translations of Du Fu and Li Bai found on ER; SO refers to the Stephen Owen translations of Du Fu and Li Bai found on ER; CK refers to the Carolyn Kizer translations of Du Fu found on ER; SH refers to the Sam Hamill translations of Du Fu found on ER; CTC refers to the translations of Du Fu by Chao Tze-Chiang found on ER; WB refers to the translations of Du Fu by Witter Bynner found on ER; RA refers to the translations of Du Fu found on ER.

Assigned Readings (asterisks indicate the start of a new day's readings):

**The Analects of Confucius*, Books 1-5 (Electronic Reserve);

**The Analects of Confucius*, Books 11-15 (ER);

**The Mencius*, Chapters 1-4 (ER);

**The Taotecheng* by Lao tzu, I: 1-31 (ER);

**The Taotecheng* by Lao tzu, II: 40-52, 62-81 (ER)

- *“Enjoyment in Untroubled Ease” and “The Full Understanding of Life,” by Chuang-tzu (ER);
- **Dhammapada* 1-9 (ER);
- **Dhammapada* 10-17, 20 (ER);
- *“Introduction” to *Selected Poems of Li Po*, DH, xi-xxv;
- “The Times,” *Facing the Moon*, xiii-xxii, KH (ER);
- “Li Po,” *Five Tang Poets*, DY, 45-52 (ER);
- *“Introduction” and “Biography,” *Selected Poems of Tu Fu*, DH, vii-xvi and 115-132;
- “Tu Fu,” *Five Tang Poets*, DY, 77-83 (ER);
- *Li Po, “Something Said, Waking Drunk on a Spring Day,” DH, 18; cf. DY’s trans., 70-71; KH’s trans., 11 (ER);
- , “Waiting for Wine that Doesn’t Come,” DH, 31;
- , “Drinking Alone Beneath the Moon,” DH, 43-45; cf. DY’s trans., 54-55; SO’s trans., 1383; KH’s trans., 59 (ER);
- , “Spur of the Moment,” DH 57; cf. SO’s trans., 1383; DY’s trans., 72 (ER);
- , “Drinking in the Mountains with a Recluse,” DH, 60 (ER);
- , “Drunk on T-ung-Kuan Mountain, a Quatrain,” DH, 75;
- *Li Po, “Sunlight Chant,” DH, 10; cf. SO’s trans., 1380 (ER);
- , “A Friend Stays the Night,” DH, 115;
- , “9/9, Out Drinking on Dragon Mountain,” DH, 97;
- , “9/10 Goings On,” DH, 98;
- , “Facing Wine,” DH, 112;
- , “Drinking Alone on a Spring Day,” DH, 113-114;
- , “Drinking Alone,” DH, 118;
- , “Bring in the Wine,” SO, 1380-1381 (ER);
- , “My Feelings,” SO, 1383; cf. KH’s trans. (entitled “Idling Alone), 5; DY’s trans. [under title “Indulgence”], 72 (ER);
- *Li Po, “Going to Visit Tai-Tien Mountain’s Master of the Way without Finding Him,” DH, 3; cf. DY’s trans., 66-67; KH’s trans., 7 (ER);
- , “Gazing at Lu Mountain Waterfall,” DH, 6-7; Cf. KH’s trans., 29 (ER);
- , “Visiting a Ch’an Master among Mountains and Lakes,” DH, 8;
- , “Night Thoughts at Tung-Lin Monastery on Lu Mountain,” DH, 9;
- , “Written on a Wall at Summit-Top Temple,” DH, 11;
- , “Listening to Lu Tzu-Hsün Play the *Ch’in* on a Moonlit Night,” DH, 28;
- , “Listening to a Monk’s *Ch’in* Depths,” DH, 73; cf. KH’s trans., 23; DY’s trans., 59 (ER);
- *Li Po, “Written While Wandering the White River in Nan-Yang, After Climbing onto the Rocks,” DH, 23;
- , “A Summer Day in the Mountains,” DH, 27; cf. SO’s trans., 1383 (ER);
- , “Visiting Shui-Hsi Monastery,” DH, 87;
- , “Looking for Yung, the Recluse Master,” DH, 109;
- , “A Clear Wet Dawn,” DY, 53;
- , “Seeing That White-Haired Old Man Legend Describes in Country Grasses,” DH, 119;
- , “Conversation among Mountains,” DY, 69; cf. SO’s trans. 1383 (SO);
- *Du Fu, “Moonlit Night,” DH, 25; cf. AR’s trans., 61; SO’s trans., 1386; KH’s trans., 65; DY’s trans., 88 (ER);

- , "Thinking of My Brothers on a Moonlit Night," DH, 42; cf. DY's trans., 101, KH's trans., 79; RA's trans., 159 (ER);
- , "After Three or Four Years . . .," DH, 89;
- , "To My Brother Zhan . . .," KH, 99 (ER);
- , "Thinking of My Little Boy," DH, 27, Cf. KH's trans., 63; cf. RA's trans., 73 (ER);
- , "The River Village," DH, 55; Cf. RA's trans., 197; SH's trans. (ER);
- , "Qiang Village," RA, 83-85; cf. SH's trans., 13; SO's trans. 1386 (ER);
- *Du Fu, "9/9, Sent to Ts'en Shen," DH, 17;
- , "Feng-Hsien Return Chant," DH, 18-22; cf. DY's trans., 85-87; RA's trans., 51-59; CK's trans [under title "100 lines"] (ER);
- , "Asking of Wu Lang Again," DH, 97;
- , "Friends from Days of Poverty," RA, 37 (ER);
- , "Phoenix Seat," RA, 173-175 (ER);
- *Du Fu, "New Year's Eve at Tu Wei's Home," DH, 14;
- , "A Guest Arrives," DH, 59; cf. SO's trans., 1388; KH's trans., 111 (ER);
- , "Two Impromptus," DH, 62;
- , 9th Month, 1st Day . . .," DH, 93;
- , "In the City on Business I Meet One Friend . . .," DY, 98-100 (ER);
- , "Good News of the Recovery of the Central Plains," RA, 239; cf. KH's trans., 107 (ER);
- *Li Po, "Teasing Tu Fu," DH, 54; cf. DY's trans., 56; KH's trans., 33; Wayne Westlake's trans. (ER);
- , "At Sha-Ch'iu, Sent to Tu Fu," DH, 55;
- , "Seeing Du Fu Off . . .," KH, 17 (ER);
- Du Fu, "For Li Po," DH, 5;
- , "Dreaming of Li Po," DH, 35; cf. RA's trans, 149-153; KH's trans. 75-77; DY's trans., 96-97 (ER);
- , "At Sky's End Thinking of Li Po," DH, 43; cf. KH's trans., 87; WB's trans. (ER);
- *Li Po, "At Yüan Tan-Ch'iu's Mountain Home," DH, 19;
- , "Wandering Ch'ing -Ling Stream in Nan-Yang," DH, 24;
- , "Wandering Up Lo-Fu Creek on a Spring Day," DH, 49;
- , "On Hsin-P'ing Tower," DH, 50;
- , "Making My Way . . .," DH, 103;
- , "Mountain Dialogue," DH, 32; cf. KH's trans., 13; SO's trans., 1383 (ER);
- , "Ching-T'ing Mountain, Sitting Alone," DH, 67; cf. SO's trans., 1384; KH's trans., 51 (ER);
- , "Before My Boat . . .," DH, 101-102;;
- , "After Climbing Pa-Ling Mountain . . .," DH, 106;
- *Du Fu, "Rain Clears," DH, 44;
- , "Gazing at the Sacred Peak," DH, 3;
- , "Four Quatrains," DH, 53-54;
- , "Landscape," DH, 47;
- , "Nine Improvisations," DH, 63;
- , "Six Quatrains," DH, 70-71;
- , "Ch'u Southlands," DH, 75;
- , "Impromptu," DH, 75;

- , "Two Quatrains," DH, 86;
 ---, "Short Impressions," RA, 257 (ER);
 *Du Fu, "Asking Wei Pan to Find Pine Starts," DH, 53;
 ---, "A Farmer," DH, 55;
 ---, "The Farmhouse," DH, 56;
 ---, "Boating," DH, 56;
 ---, "Our Southern Neighbor," DH, 57;
 ---, "A Servant Boy Comes," DH, 88---, "Dawn," DH, 92;
 ---, "On Getting Back to the Farm . . .," RA, 319 (ER);
 ---, "Becoming a Farmer," SH (ER);
 *Du Fu, "Lone Goose," DH, 90; cf. RA's trans., 313;
 ---, "The Musk Deer," DH, 90;
 ---, "The Bactrian Horse," RA, 5 (ER);
 ---, "The Sick Horse," RA 163; cf. KH's trans., 95 (ER);
 ---, "The Coloured Duck," RA, 229 (ER);
 ---, "A Pair of Swallows" KH, 89 (ER);
 *Du Fu, "Eyeful," DH, 44;
 ---, "Thoughts Come," DH, 45;
 ---, "Standing Alone," DH, 46;
 ---, "9/9 on Tzu Chou City Wall," DH, 66;
 ---, "Leaning on a Cane," DH, 66;
 ---, "Overnight at the Riverside Tower," DH, 79; cf. SO's trans, 1389; KH's trans., 111;
 RA's trans., 287 (ER);
 ---, "Facing Night," DH, 98;
 ---, "Night," DH, 99;
 *Du Fu, "Autumn Rain Lament," DH, 18; cf. RA's trans., 39-41 (ER);
 ---, "Reflections in Autumn," DH, 81-84; cf. RA's trans., 303-311 (ER);
 ---, "Autumn Pastoral," DH, 95-96; cf. DY's trans., 111-115 (ER);
 *Du Fu, "An Empty Purse," DH, 47, cf. KH's trans., 91; RA, 161 (ER);
 ---, "Seven Songs at T'ung-Ku," DH, 48-50;
 ---, "Failing Flare," DH, 88;
 ---, "Day's End," DH, 93;
 ---, "On a Tower," DH, 94;
 ---, "Thoughts," DH, 100-101;
 ---, "Thoughts Traveling at Night," DH, 105; cf. SO's trans., 1389; RA's trans., 267;
 KH's trans., 119 (ER);
 ---, "Chiang-Han," DH, cf. RA's trans. [under title "River Bank"], 345 (ER);
 ---, "Struggling South," KH, 115 (ER);
 ---, "The Tourist Park," CK (ER);
 *Du Fu, "Thoughts Facing Rain . . .," DH, 4;
 ---, "Plum Rains," DH, 54;
 ---, "Morning Rain," DH, 59;
 ---, "Spring Night, Delighted by Rain," DH, 61; cf. RA's trans., 209; DY's trans., 103
 (ER);
 ---, "Morning Rain," DH, 87;
 ---, "Rain," DH, 98;

- , "Happy Over Rain," KH, 109 (ER);
- *Li Po, "At Fang-Ch'en Monastery . . . ," DH, 22;
- , "Ancient Song," DH, 30;
- , "Wandering T'ai Mountain," DH, 36-37;
- , "Thoughts of You Unending," DH, 48; cf. SO's trans. (entitled "Yearning"), 1382 (ER);
- , "Sent to My Two Children in Sha-Ch'iu," DH, 61-62;
- , "Drinking with Shih Lang-Chung . . . ," DH, 96;
- , "Traveling South to Yeh-Lang . . . ," DH, 99;
- , "At Lung-Hsing Monastery . . . ," DH, 107;
- , "After an Ancient Poem," DH, 110;
- , "Spending the Night Below Wu_Sung . . . ," DH, 116;
- , "On Gazing into a Mirror," DH, 123;
- *Du Fu, "Song of the War Carts," DH, 10; cf. RA's trans., 25-27 (ER);
- , "Ch'en-T'ao Lament," DH, 25; cf. RA's trans., 67 (ER);
- , "The Conscription Officer at Shih-Hao," DH, 36-37; cf. RA's trans. 125-127 (ER);
- , "The Conscripting Officer at Xin'an," RA, 119-121 (ER);
- , "Lament of the New Wife," RA, 129-131 (ER);
- , "Parting in Old Age," DH, 37; cf. RA's trans., 133-135 (ER);
- , "Grieving the Defeat at Green Slope," KH, 101 (ER);
- , "White Horse," DY, 116 (ER);
- , "Song for Silkworms and Grain," DH, 111; cf. RA's trans., 349 (ER);
- *Li Po, "Frontier-Mountain Moon," DH, 26;
- , "Gazing into Antiquity in Yüeh," DH, 34; cf. KH's trans., 21 (ER);
- , "War South of the Great Wall," DH, 58-59; cf. DY's trans., 61-63 (ER);
- , "War South of the Great Wall," DH, 65;
- , "After an Ancient Poem," DH, 94;
- , "Midnight Song of Wu," KH, 45 (ER);
- *Du Fu, "Peng-Ya Song," DH, 28-29; Cf. SO's trans., 1385-1386; DY's trans., 91-93; RA's trans., 99-103 (ER);
- , "The Journey North," DH, 31-33; cf. RA's trans. 87-97 (ER);
- , "Seven Songs at T'ung-Ku," DH, 48-50; cf. RA's trans. 177-185 (ER);
- , "Qiang Village," RA, 83-85; cf. SO's trans., 1386; SH's trans. (ER);
- *Du Fu, "Meandering River: Three Stanzas . . . ," DH, 15;
- , "Meandering River," DH, 34; cf. DY's trans., 94-95; RA's trans., 105-107; CK's trans. [under titles "Spring Goes" and "I Go Too"]; SH's trans. [under title "Crooked River Meditation" (ER);
- , "Alone, Looking for Blossoms along the River," DH, 60-61; cf. DY's trans, 104-107 (ER);
- , "In Sadness beside the River", RA, 75-77; cf. WB's trans. [entitled "A Song of Sobbing by the River"] (ER);
- , "River Waters That Are Like the Sea," RA, 213 (ER);
- Li Po, "On Autumn River, Along Po-Ko Shores," DH, 76-77;
- , "Autumn River Songs," DH, 78-81;
- , "On Autumn River at Clear Creek," DH, 85;
- , "Clear Creek Chant," DH, 86;

- *Du Fu, "Four Rhymes at Feng-Chi Post-Station . . .," DH, 65;
 ---, "Farewell at Feng Kuan's Grave," DH, 67;
 ---, "Seeing a Friend Off on a Long Journey," KH, 83 (ER);
 ---, "Farewell to my Soldier Friend," CTC (ER);
 ---, "Farewell Rhyme," SH (ER);
 ---, "The Unhappy Farewell," AR, 205 (ER);
 Li Po, "At Ching-Men Ferry," A Farewell," DH, 5;
 ---, "Farewell to a Visitor Returning East," DH, 14; cf. DY's trans., 64 (ER);
 ---, "On Yellow-Crane Tower, Farewell . . .," DH, 15;
 ---, "Avoiding Farewell in a Chin-Ling Wineshop," DH, 35; cf. KH's trans., 37 (ER);
 ---, "At Sha-Ch'iu, Farewell . . .," DH, 56;
 ---, "Impromptu Chant," DH, 64;
 ---, "Farewell to Yin Shu," DH, 66;
 ---, "Farewell to Han Shih-Yü . . .," DH, 117;
 ---, "Sending Off a Friend," KH, 31; cf. DY's trans., 58 (ER);
 ---, "Laolao Pavilion," KH, 47 (ER);
 *Li Po, "Ch'ang Kan Village Song," DH, 12-13; cf. KH's trans., 39-41; EP's trans.
 [entitled "The River Merchant's Wife"] (ER);
 ---, "Exile's Letter," EP (ER);
 Du Fu, "Pounding Clothes," DH, 46; cf. KH's trans., 85 (ER);
 ---, "Ballad of the Firewood Haulers," DH, 76; cf. AR's trans., 273-275 (ER);
 *Du Fu, "Staying the Night with Abbot Ts'an," DH, 43;
 ---, "The New Moon," DH, 45; cf. DY's trans., 102 (ER);
 ---, "Night," DH, 79;
 ---, "Full Moon," DH, 80;
 ---, "Midnight," DH, 81;
 ---, "Returning Late," DH, 102;
 ---, "Riverside Moon and Stars," DH, 105;
 ---, "Overnight at White-Sand Post Station," DH, 109;
 ---, "Heaven's River," KH, 67 (ER);
 ---, "Facing the Moon . . .," KH, 69 (ER);
 *Li Po, "To Send Far Away," DH, 16;
 ---, "Hsiang-Yang Songs," DH, 17;
 ---, "Gazing into Antiquity at Su Terrace," DH, 33;
 ---, "Shang Mountain, Four -Recluse Pass," DH, 52;
 ---, "At Hsieh T'iao's House," DH, 69;
 ---, "Mourning Old Chi . . .," DH, 72;
 ---, "Mourning Chao," DH, 74;
 ---, "On Phoenix Tower in Chin-Ling," DH, 91; cf. KH's trans., 35 (ER);
 ---, "At Chin-Ling," DH, 92;
 *Du Fu, "Opposite a Post Station . . .," DH, 106;
 ---, "Far Corners of Earth," DH, 107;
 ---, "Leaving Kung-An at Dawn," DH, 107;
 ---, "Deep Winter," DH, 108;
 ---, "Song at Year's End," DH, 108;
 ---, "On Yo-Yang Tower," DH, 109;

---, "Facing Snow," DH, 110; cf. AR's trans., 69; KH's trans., 103 (ER);
---, "Meeting Li Kuei-Nien . . .," DH, 111;
---, "Entering Tung-T'ing Lake," DH, 111;
---, "Thoughts Sick with Fever," DH, 112;
Li Po, "Gazing at Crab-Apple Mountain," DH, 111;
---, "Lines Three, Five, Seven Words Long," DH, 121;
---, "South of the Yangtze, Thinking of Spring," DH, 122;
*Basho, "Thinking of Old Tu Fu" [trans. Fumiko Fujikawa], (ER);
J.S. Venit, "Greetings from Tu Fu" (ER);
Philip Memmer, "Letter to a Friend" (ER);
Stephen Stepanchev, "Thinking About Tu Fu" (ER);
Yang Mu, "An Autumnal Prayer to Tu Fu" [trans. Joseph R. Allen] (ER);
August Kleinzahler, "Watching Dagwood Blossoms Fall . . ." (ER);
Sydney Goodsir Smith, "Tu Fu's View of Fife" (ER);
Kurt S. Olson, "Drinking with Li Po" (ER);
Anselm Hollo, "A Token for Li Po" (ER);
John Belknap, "An Old Laugh of Li Po's" (ER);
Judith Vollmer, "Smoking Cigars with Li Po" (ER).

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late and revised assignments, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

STATEMENTS REQUIRED IN COURSE SYLLABI Per SUU Policy 6.36

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