

HIST 143 Knights and Concubines: Facts, Fiction and Film Spring 2010

Room: Arter Hall 201

Instructor: Dr. Guo Wu

Meeting Time: M.W.F. 11:00-11:50

Office Hour: M.W.F. 10:00-11:00; 2:30-3:30

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Purpose:

An examination of how knights and concubines serve as contrasting icons of Chinese culture. Through the use of fiction, film and research work, this course will show how both groups have been historically constructed and reinterpreted in the 20th century as exotic and mythical symbols in Chinese and Western minds. Upon completing this course, students will acquire a unique perspective to understand Chinese history as well as Chinese counterculture and values different from mainstream historical narrative.

Required Readings:

Gu Long, *The Eleventh Son* (Paramus, NJ: Homa and Sekey Books, 2005)

Brian Kennedy and Elizabeth Guo, *Chinese Martial Arts Training Manuals* (Berkeley: Blue Snake Books, 2005)

Fung Yu-lan, *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* (New York: The Free Press, 1997)

Guo Wu ed., Reading Packet for History 143 (available at Allegheny College Bookstore)

Requirements:

- 1) Attendance and participation of the class
- 2) All absences should have official memo or legitimate excuse. Over three times of unauthorized absences will automatically lead to deduction of your grade.
- 3) All papers must be paginated and **stapled**
- 4) Late papers must have legitimate reason
- 5) All students are required to have a conversation with instructor at mid-point
- 6) With the exception of week one, readings for each week should be completed before the first lecture of the specific week and you are expected to bring the reading materials of the week to class. i.e., readings listed under week 2 should be read by the time you arrive for class on Wednesday, January 25.

Week 1

Reading: *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* 1-48

January 20 Introduction

January 22 Pre-Qin Chinese Society

Week 2

Reading: *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* 49-128

January 25 Spring Autumn/Warring States

January 27 The Rise of *Shi*
January 29 The Hundred Schools

Week 3

Reading: *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* 129-230

February 1 Qin Unification
February 3 Former Han Dynasty
February 5 Rise of *Xia*

Week 4

Reading: *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* 231-318

February 8 Film: *Hero* (100')
February 10 Film: *Hero* (100')
February 12 Discussion about the film

Week 5

Reading: *Chinese Martial Arts Training Manuals* 1-127

February 15 Knight-errant and Martial arts
February 17 Daoism, Buddhism and Chinese martial arts values
February 19 Women in Knight errant tradition

Reading response due

Week 6

Reading: *Chinese Martial Arts Training Manuals* 128-304

February 22 The vagrant Culture and *Jianghu*
February 24 Secret Society
February 26 Knight Errant in classical Literature

Week 7

Reading: Excerpts from *Outlaws of the Marsh*

Excerpts from *The Pilgrimage to the West*
March 1 *Legend of the Swordsman* (100')
March 3 *Legend of the Swordsman* (100')
March 5 Discussion

Week 8

Reading: Gu Long, *The Eleventh Son* pp.1-106

March 8 Film: *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* (120')
March 10 Film: *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* (120')
March 12 Film: *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* (120')/Discussion

Analytical paper due

Week 9

Reading: Gu Long, *The Eleventh Son* pp. 107-366

March 15 Film: *One-armed Swordsman* (117')

March 17 Film: *One-armed Swordsman* (117')
March 19 Film: *One-armed Swordsman* (117')/Discussion

Week 10 Spring Break!!

Week 11

March 29 Film: *Iron Monkey* (85')
March 31 Film: *Iron Monkey* (85')
April 2 Discussion/ **Reading response due**

Week 12

April 5 Film: *Fearless* (104')
April 7 Film: *Fearless* (104')
April 9 Discussion/Chinese *Concubinage I*

Week 13 April 12 Film: *Kung Fu Hustle* (95')
April 14 Film: *Kung Fu Hustle* (95')
April 16 Chinese *Concubinage II*

Week 14

Reading: Excerpt from *Plum in Golden Vase*
April 19 Film: *Raise the Red Lantern* (125')
April 21 Film: *Raise the Red Lantern* (125')
April 23 Film: *Raise the Red Lantern* (125')/**Film analysis due**

Week 15

Reading: *Raise the Red Lantern* (novella)
April 26 Film: *A Soul Haunted by Painting* (130')
April 28 Film: *A Soul Haunted by Painting* (130')
April 30 Film: *A Soul Haunted by Painting* (130')

Week 16

May 3 Discussion/**Film and Novel Analysis Essay due**