# Chinese Culture and Language

## Prof. Natalia Francesca Riva, Enrica Peracin

**Chinese Literature**

## Prof. Enrica Peracin, Cristina Rambaldini

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course provides students with an introduction to the history of China and the foundations of Chinese culture, literature, and society. By the end of the course, students will have the necessary knowledge to approach – critically and with awareness – an understanding of the Chinese world as well as its dynamics of historical and socio-cultural development.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Physical and political China
* The birth of Chinese civilisation
* Chinese writing: origin, testimonies, myths and evolution
* Chinese history: from the empire to the republic to the present day
* Encounter and confrontation with the West
* Chinese thought: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism
* An overview of Chinese literature
* Socio-cultural and socio-political phenomena of yesterday and today

***READING LIST***

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea. Dalla fine dell'Impero a oggi*, Einaudi, Torino 2017.

M. Wood, *La storia della Cina. Le origini di una civiltà millenaria*, Mondadori, Milano 2022.

Notes, slides and any additional material provided during the course of the lectures.

The parts of the aforementioned works to be studied, as well as any further information about the reading list, will be specified in class by the lecturers. Additional materials reported on or used in class, including multimedia, to be prepared and studied for the exam will be indicated and, if possible, uploaded to the platform.

In addition, the following novels are required to be read:

* a novel to be chosen from:
* Cao Xueqin (Ts’ao Hsüeh-Ch’in), *Il sogno della camera rossa* (trans. by E. Masi), BUR, Milano 2008.
* Laozi, *Daodejing. Il canone della via e della virtù* (Chinese parallel text, edited by Attilio Andreini), Einaudi, Torino2018.
* Li Bai, *L’uomo, il poeta* (edited by P. De Laurentis), Ariele, Milano 2016.
* Luo Guanzhong, *Il romanzo dei tre regni* (trans. by Vincenzo Cannata), Luni, Milano 2022.
* Shi Nai’an, Luo Guanzhong*, In riva all'acqua* (trans. from the French by Serafino Balduzzi and Vincenzo Cannata), Luni, Milano 2015.
* Sunzi, *L’arte della guerra* (trad. di Miriam Castorina), Giunti, Firenze 2021
* Wu Cheng’en, *Lo scimmiotto* (trans. by A. Motti, from the English version by A. Waley), Einaudi, Torino 1982 oppure Adelphi, Milano 2009 (quinta edizione).
* a novel to be chosen from:
* Han Shaogong, *Il dizionario di Maqiao* (trans. by Maria Rita Masci e Patrizia Liberati)*,* Einaudi, Torino 2021.
* Lao She, *Il ragazzo del risciò* (edited by Alessandra Lavagnino), Mondadori, Milano 2020.
* Liu Zhenyun, *Divorzio alla cinese* (trans. by Maria Gottardo e Monica Morzenti), Bompiani, Milano 2016.
* Lu Nei, *Giovane Babilonia* (trans. by Gloria Cella e Natalia Riva, a cura di Silvia Pozzi), Atmosphere, Roma 2021.
* Lu Xun, *Grida* (edited by Nicoletta Pesaro), Sellerio, Palermo, 2022.
* Lu Xun, *Esitazione* (edited by Nicoletta Pesaro), Sellerio, Palermo 2022.
* Mo Yan, *Grande seno, fianchi larghi* (trans. by Giorgio Trentin), Einaudi, Torino 2002.
* Mo Yan, *Le rane* (trad. di Patrizia Liberati), Einaudi, Torino 2014.
* Su Tong, *Mogli e concubine* (trans. by Maria Rita Masci), Orientalia, Roma 2020.
* Su Tong, *L'epoca dei tatuaggi* (trans. by Maria Rita Masci), Orientalia, Roma 2021.
* Wang Anyi, *La canzone dell’eterno rimpianto* (trans. by Maria Rita Masci), Einaudi, Torino 2011.
* Yu Hua, *Vivere!* (trans. by Nicoletta Pesaro), Feltrinelli, Milano 2018 (quarta ristampa).
* Yu Hua, *Brothers* (trans. by Silvia Pozzi), Feltrinelli, Milano 2008 e *Arricchirsi è glorioso* (trans. by Silvia Pozzi), Feltrinelli, Milano 2009.
* Yu Hua, *Il settimo giorno* (trans. by Silvia Pozzi), Feltrinelli, Milano 2017.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes classroom lectures and, where possible, seminars/conferences on specific topics. Details will be provided throughout the year.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be a single oral exam on the content of semesters 1 and 2.

Students will be awarded a mark out of 30. They will be assessed primarily on their knowledge of the subjects covered during the course and the ability to make appropriate links. It also assesses their presentation skills, their ability to make effective arguments, and their knowledge and appropriate use of specific terminology (in Italian and Chinese).

**For students of the tourism curriculum:**

The Chinese language and culture course for students enrolled in the tourism curriculum takes one year.

The exam will consist of the assessment of a written paper to be agreed in advance with the lecturer (maximum of 6 pages including bibliography notes), in which a course topic is studied in an original way, making reference to the reading list present in the course programme. The paper must be emailed to the lecturer 2 weeks before the exam session intended to be taken.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given the use of Chinese language keywords (concepts, proper names, titles of works, etc.), basic knowledge of written and spoken Chinese is required.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.

**Chinese Literature**

## Prof. Enrica Peracin, Cristina Rambaldini

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to explore Chinese literature, with a focus on the historical and stylistic development of its literary genres, through the analysis of modern and contemporary texts. In addition, for students who are studying a different language than Chinese, it aims to introduce the history of China and the foundations of classical and modern Chinese culture.

The course is addressed to three different categories of students:

* Students who are studying Chinese and want to acquire an in-depth knowledge of Chinese culture;
* Students who are studying Chinese and want to become Chinese teachers;
* Students who are studying literature and are interested in the Chinese literary tradition.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: (a) know and appreciate, from a critical perspective, the main literary movements of ancient and contemporary China; (b) understand the difficulties arising from the translation of literary texts from Chinese into Italian and find possible solutions; (c) identify similarities and differences between Chinese and Italian literary genres, in order to promote a dialogue between these two cultures.

***COURSE CONTENT***

For all students:

- the key concepts of Chinese literature

- before Confucius (5th century BC)

- from Confucius to Lu Xun (500 BC – 1918 AD)

- from Mao to the present day (1942-)

For students who are studying Chinese (both categories):

- An introduction to the analysis of texts in Chinese and translation of literary texts.

For students who are studying literature (the third category mentioned above):

- Writing in China: origins and development.

***READING LIST***

For students studying Chinese both categories

* Lectures notes
* General textbooks of reference:

- S. Knight, *Letteratura cinese* (edit. by Federica Casalin), Hoepli, Milano, 2021

* Anthologies:

- V. Pedone – S. Zuccheri, *Letteratura cinese contemporanea. Correnti, autori e testi dal 1949 ad oggi.* Hoepli, Milano, 2015

- N. Pesaro – M. Pirazzoli, *La narrativa cinese del Novecento. Autori, opere, correnti,*  Carocci, Roma, 2019

- T. Rossi, C.C. Rambaldini, *Scopri e conosci la Cina, 走遍中国，了解中国， zuobian Zhongguo, liaojie Zhongguo,*  Hoepli, Milano, 2021

* In addition, students will have to read two literary works.

A first reading of their choice:

* Li Bai*. L'uomo, il poeta*, a cura di P. De Laurentis, Ariele, 2016.
* Shi Nai'an, Luo Guanzhong*, In riva all'acqua*, Luni, 2015.
* Wu Cheng'en, *Lo scimmiotto*, Milano, Adelphi, or following editions
* Cao Xueqin, *Il sogno della camera rossa*, Milano, Bur-Rizzoli, 2008 or following editions

And a second reading of their choice:

* Lu Xun, *La vera storia di Ah Q*, Newton Compton, 2016.
* Lu Xun, *Grida*, (a cura di Nicoletta Pesaro), Sellerio Editore, Palermo, 2021.
* Lu Xun, *Esitazione*, (a cura di Nicoletta Pesaro), Sellerio Editore, Palermo, 2022.
* Ba Jin, *Famiglia*, Asiasphere edizione, 2018.
* Acheng, *La trilogia dei re,* Theoria, 2018
* Mo Yan, *Sorgo Rosso*, Einaudi, Torino, 1997 o successive ristampe.
* Mo Yan, *Le sei reincarnazioni di Ximen Nao*, Einaudi, Torino, 2009.
* Su Tong, *Mogli e concubine*, Feltrinelli, 2013
* Yu Hua, *Vivere!* Milano, Feltrinelli, 2018 (4° ristampa).
* Yu Hua, *Brothers*, MilFeltrinelli, 2008 e Arricchirsi è glorioso, Feltrinelli, Milano, 2009.
* Gao Xingjian, *La montagna dell’anima*, Rizzoli, 2008.
* Zhang Jie, *Anni di buio*, TEA, 2012.
* Wang Anyi, *La canzone dell’eterno rimpianto*, Einaudi, Torino, 2011

For students who are studying literature (the third category mentioned above):

* Lectures notes
* General textbooks of reference:

- M. Abbiati, *La scrittura cinese nei secoli. Dal pennello alla tastiera*, Carocci, 2017

- S. Knight, *Letteratura cinese* (edit. by Federica Casalin), Hoepli, Milano, 2021

* Anthologies:

- V. Pedone – S. Zuccheri, *Letteratura cinese contemporanea. Correnti, autori e testi dal 1949 ad oggi.* Hoepli, Milano, 2015

- N. Pesaro – M. Pirazzoli, *La narrativa cinese del Novecento. Autori, opere, correnti,*  Carocci, Roma, 2019

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* Shi Nai'an, Luo Guanzhong*, In riva all'acqua*, Luni, 2015.
* Wu Cheng'en, *Lo scimmiotto*, Milano, Adelphi, 2002 or following editions.
* Cao Xueqin, *Il sogno della camera rossa*, Milano, Bur-Rizzoli, 2008 or following editions

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* Lu Xun, *Esitazione*, (a cura di Nicoletta Pesaro), Sellerio Editore, Palermo, 2022
* Ba Jin, *Famiglia*, Asiasphere edizione, 2018.
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* Mo Yan, *Le sei reincarnazioni di Ximen Nao*, Einaudi, Torino, 2009.
* Su Tong, *Mogli e concubine*, Feltrinelli, 2013.
* Yu Hua, *Vivere!*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2018 (4° reprint).
* Yu Hua, *Brothers*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2008 e *Arricchirsi è glorioso*, Feltrinelli, Milano,
  1. 2009.
* Gao Xingjian, *La montagna dell’anima*, Rizzoli, 2008.
* Zhang Jie, *Anni di buio*, TEA, 2012.
* Wang Anyi, *La canzone dell’eterno rimpianto*, Einaudi, Torino, 2011

***TEACHING METHOD***

Further information on calendar and timetable of the practical activities held by Prof. Peracin and by Prof. Rambaldini – addressed to students who are studying Chinese – will be made available soon.

In addition, the textbooks of the reading list will be presented in class at the beginning of the course, in order to help students in their choice.

Students who are studying literature (the third category mentioned above) will have to attend the *Chinese language and culture* course, held by Prof. Peracin, during semester 1, for an introduction to key elements of Chinese culture.

During the course, students will receive further information on the practical activities and the initiatives related to the topics explained in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is conducted in oral form. The student will be expected to answer questions regarding the general topics and particular authors covered in class, demonstrating ability to move within the literary landscape both ancient and modern and contemporary.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since the course will be based on Chinese literary and philosophical terms, concepts, and texts, students should have a good knowledge of written and oral Chinese.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board