



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

MCLL 355: Masterpieces of East Asian Literature

Term: July 8 – August 2, 2019

Instructor: Thomas Michael

Home Institution: Beijing Normal University

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Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 17:30-19:30

120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

Masterpieces of East Asian Literature is designed to introduce a select survey of literary writings from China, Japan, and Korea.

Week 1: Ancient writings from China and Japan. This includes the earliest Chinese writings on oracle bones from the Shang Dynasty, the most ancient Chinese poetry from the *Shiji*, and the mythological foundations from the *Daodejing* and the *Kojiki* upon which later literature was developed.

Week 2: The three most influential literary works of the entire East Asian tradition: the Confucian *Analects*, the Daoist *Zhuangzi*, and the Buddhist *Lotus Sutra*.

Week 3: Two of the most important poets from the East Asian tradition, Tao Qian and Basho; also, two important forms of poetry, Korean Shijo and Japanese Haiku.

Week 4: Modernity and the short story: selections from contemporary Korea and Japan.

Course Goals:

The goal of the course is to read these works to gain insight into pre-modern East Asian cultures as well as to develop skills in the appreciation and analysis of literature.

The course reading list consists of a variety of works and genres entirely in English translation. In exploring and discussing these works, students will be able to engage in various debates, issues, and questions that are presented in each of them. In composing mid-term and final

essays, students are expected to formulate their own responses to and understandings of the reading materials through relying on their grasp of East Asian literature.

Required Readings will be made available during class.

Grading Policy:

45% Midterm essay

45% Final exam

10% Classroom engagement (attendance, attention, participation in discussions)

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade. Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class
- Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class. Students who do not do this will be asked to leave the class.
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class.

Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. Academic policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Academic policy also states that a student who has more than 3 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Day 1, Mon: Introduction to course.

Day 2, Tues: Shang Dynasty Oracle Bones

Day 3, Wed: Selections from Shijing

Day 4, Thurs: The Daodejing

Day 5, Fri: Selections from the Kojiki

Week 2:

Day 6, Mon: Selections from the Analects

Day 7, Tues: Selections from the Zhuangzi

Day 8, Wed: Selections from the Lotus Sutra

Day 9, Thurs: Selections from the Lotus Sutra

Day 10, Fri: Course review and mid-term essay assigned.

Week 3:

Day 11, Mon: Selections from Tao Qian

Day 12, Tues: Selections from Tang Dynasty poetry

Day 13, Wed: Selections of Shijo

Day 14, Thurs: Selections of Haiku

Day 15, Fri: Selections from Basho

Week 4:

Day 16, Mon: Modern Japanese short stories.

Day 17, Tues: Modern Japanese short stories.

Day 18, Wed: Modern Korean short stories.

Day 19, Thurs: Modern Korean short stories.

Day 20, Fri: Course review and final essay assigned.