CHES 5127 The Male Bond in Traditional China  
2020-21, Term 2, Fridays, 9:30 am – 12:15 pm (YIA LT9)

Teacher: Prof. King-fai Tam (kingfaitam@gmail.com)  
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Mavis SIU (mavissiu@cuhk.edu.hk)

Course Description
Romance of Three Kingdoms (Sankuo yanyi) and Outlaws of the Marsh (Shuihu zhuan), two masterpieces of classical Chinese fiction, are treasure troves of traditional Chinese values. This course will focus on the phenomenon of male bonding, an important facet of masculinity, as illustrated in these two works. Through a close study of major selections from the novels, their filmic adaptations, background materials and critical literature, students will come to understand the nature of close relationships between men in Chinese culture, observable in many social situations even today.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, you should:
- be familiar with the major themes of the two Ming novels, Sanguo yanyi and Shuihu zhuan
- have gained a broad understanding of the issue of male friendship in its various aspects in the Ming period as exemplified by these two works
- be sensitive to the modern day application and adaptation of the traditional values governing the male bond in China
- have developed a critical angle in viewing gender relationship in Ming China

Learning Activities
Class will meet for three hours per week, usually divided into a lecture and a tutorial segment. Students are expected to finish all the required readings before class. A few weeks into the semester after the introduction of the basic critical issues of the course, students will give short presentations on selected topics. There will also be one short written assignment and a final paper. Course readings and other materials will be upload onto the CUHK Blackboard.

Assessment Scheme
The score for participation will be based on students’ contribution to class participation. All students will, individually or small groups, give a presentation on selected readings or topics, in addition to submitting a short assignment and a final paper. All assignments together with a signed VeriGuide receipt should be emailed to the teaching assistant in Word format by 11:30 pm of the due date. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

Course Grading System:
- Participation 10%
- Presentation 25%
- Short Assignment 25%
- Final Paper 40%

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.
Course Schedule

The readings given below are tentative and are subject to revision.

WEEK 1 (January 15)  Organizational Meeting

WEEK 2 (January 22)  Theme and Structure of SGYY and SHZh

SHZh summary https://www.lz13.cn/duhougan/22425.html
SSYY summary https://kknews.cc/zh-tw/history/x5b28xo.html

WEEK 3 (January 29)  The Study of Femininity and Masculinity in China


WEEK 4 (February 5)  Traditional View of Friendship and the Five Ethical Bonds


WEEK 5 (February 12)  Chinese New Year, no class

WEEK 6 (February 19)  Good and Bad Women

Diana Zhou, “Exploration of Chinese ‘Dangerous Woman’: Femme Fatale or Anti-Heroine?” Sino-Platonic papers, No. 193 (November 2009), 51-60

WEEK 7 (February 26)  Male Bonding

Martin Huang, “Male Friendship in Ming China: An Introduction,” Nan Nu, Volume 9, Issue 1, 2-33
Selected writings on friendship

WEEK 8 (March 5)  The Sworn Brotherhood

WEEK 9 (March 12)  Friendship in Rivalry
Tom Burns, “Friends, Enemies and the Polite Fiction,” American Sociological Review, 19, 6 (December 1953, pp. 654-662

WEEK 10 (March 19)  Friendship and Class
Martin Huang, “Male-male Sexual Bonding and Male Friendship in Late Imperial China,” Journal of the History of Sexuality (Special Issue: Sexuality in Imperial China) Volume 22, No. 2 (May 2013), 312-331.

三國之見龍卸甲 (2008)

WEEK 11 (March 26)  The Man and His Alter-ego
張鸞：宋江-李逵式人物組合的意義闡釋
王紅彩，王玲玲 ：淺析宋江屠殺李逵原因
陳東林：從宋江與李逵的關係看水滸主題思想的表現與矛盾性

WEEK 12 (April 2)  Easter; no class

WEEK 13 (April 9)  Filmic Adaptations of SHZh
水滸傳之英雄本色 (1993)
水滸傳 (1972)
Barton Palmer, “Review: Film Adaptation and Its Discontents by Thomas Leitch,” Film Quarterly, Vol. 61, no. 1 (Fall 2009), pp. 83-84

WEEK 14 (April 16)  Filmic Adaptations of SGYY
赤壁 (2008)
三國電影攻略

WEEK 15 (April 23)  Summation

*** April 28 Final paper due ***