



**CHES 5127 The Male Bond in Traditional China**  
2020-21, Term 2, Fridays, 9:30 am – 12:15 pm, YIA 402

**Teacher:** Prof. King-fai Tam ([kingfaitam@gmail.com](mailto:kingfaitam@gmail.com))

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**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/academichonesty/>. 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. In addition to the secondary literature listed below, selected chapters from *SGYY* and *SHZh* will be assigned to students as readings from week to week.

### WEEK 1 (January 11) Organizational Meeting

### WEEK 2 (January 18) Theme and Structure of *SGYY* and *SHZh*

C. T. Hsia, "Introduction," *The Classic Chinese Novel*, Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2016, pp. 3-32.

Andrew Plaks, "The Literati Novel: Historical Background" and "Neo-Confucian Interpretations of the Four Masterworks," Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987, pp. 3-54 and 497-513.

*SHZh* summary <https://www.lz13.cn/duhogan/22425.html>

*SSYY* summary <https://kknews.cc/zh-tw/history/x5b28xo.html>

### WEEK 3 (January 25) The Study of Femininity and Masculinity in China

Susan Brownell and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, "Introduction: Theorizing Femininities and Masculinities," in edited Brownell and Wasserstrom, *Chinese Femininity, Chinese Masculinities*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 1-42.

Gail Hershatter and Zheng Wang, "Chinese History: A Useful Category of Gender Analysis," *The American Historical Review*, Volume 113, No. 5 (December 2008), 1404-1421.

### WEEK 4 (February 1) Lunar New Year

### WEEK 5 (February 8) Traditional View of Friendship and the Five Ethical Bonds

Wei-ming Tu "Probing the Three Bonds and Five Relationships in Confucian Humanism," in ed. Walter H. Slote and George A D Vosi, *Confucianism and the Family; A Study of Indo Tibetan Scholasticism*, Albany: SUNY Press, 1998, pp. 121-136

Norman Kutcher, "The Fifth Relationship: Dangerous Friendships in the Confucian Context," *The American Historical Review*, Volume 105, No. 5 (December 2000), 1615-1629

### WEEK 6 (February 15) 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

Victoria Cass, "Predators," *Dangerous Women: Warriors, Grannies, and Geishas of the Ming*, New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999, pp. 87-104

### WEEK 7 (February 22) Male Bonding

Susan Mann, "The Male Bond in Chinese History and Culture," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 5 (December 2000), 1600-1614

Martin Huang, "Male Friendship in Ming China: An Introduction," *Nan Nu*, Volume 9, Issue 1, 2-33

\*\*\* February 27 Short Assignment due \*\*\*

### WEEK 8 (March 1) The Sworn Brotherhood

Robert Antony, "Brotherhoods, Secret Societies and the Law in Qing-dynasty China," in ed. David Ownby and Mary Somers Heidhues, *Secret Societies Reconsidered: Perspectives on the Social History of Modern South China and Southeast Asia*, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1993.

David Jordan, "Sworn Brothers: A Study in Chinese Ritual Kinship," in ed. Jihchang Hsih and Ying-Chang Chuang, *The Chinese Family and Its Ritual Behavior*, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica Monograph Series B, 15, 1985

(<http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/scriptorium/jyebay.html>)

WEEK 9 (March 8) Friendship in Rivalry

H. M. Ling, "Romancing Westphalia: Westphalian IR and Romance of the Three Kingdoms," *Perceptions*, Spring 2014, XIX, 1, pp.167-181

Tom Burns, "Friends, Enemies and the Polite Fiction," *American Sociological Review*, 19, 6 (December 1953, pp. 654-662

Paul Corcoran, "Liasison dangereuses: Friends, Enemies and Others," Paper delivered at Australian Political Studies Association Conference, 6 – 9 July 2008.

WEEK 10 (March 15) 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 22) The Man and His Alter-ego

張艷：宋江-李逵式人物組合的意義闡釋

王紅彩，王玲玲：淺析宋江鳩殺李逵原因

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

Joyce Carol Oates, "Jekyll/Hyde" *The Hudson Review*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Winter, 1988), pp. 603-608

April 2 Easter; no class

WEEK 12 (March 29) 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

WEEK13 (April 5) Ching Ming Festival

WEEK 14 (April 12) Filmic Adaptations of SGYY

赤壁 (2008)

三國電影攻略

<https://www.filmcritics.org.hk/hkinema/hkinema04.pdf>

WEEK 15 (April 19) Summation

\*\*\* April 24 Final paper due \*\*\*