

## **HITO 87 Ming China in Short Stories**

Fall 2023

Mondays, 11:00 – 11:50

Professor Schneewind, sschneewind@ucsd.edu.

The Ming empire lasted from 1368 to 1644. We will read and discuss short stories, in English translation, from a late-Ming collection of stories by Feng Menglong (1574-1646), as translated by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang, and related scholarship. Peopled by gods, ghosts, and men and women of all social classes, the stories reveal family loyalty and conflict; sex and chastity; violence and Confucian study; Buddhist and Daoist religion; high ideals, crime, and corruption.

Attendance and informed, intelligent participation are required. Do the reading before class. Be ready to talk about it and listen to others. As well as being ready to recount the plot of the story or main argument of the article, write down and bring in at least three comments. They may include what interested you most, connections with other readings and with class discussion, and any questions you have.

The readings are all in the Coursepack. Buy it now at the bookstore.

### **Week One:** “Magistrate Teng Settles the Case of Inheritance with Ghostly Cleverness”

Hsu Pi-ching, *Beyond Eroticism: A Historian’s Reading of Humor in Feng Menglong’s Child’s Folly* (Lanham: University Press of America, 2006), pp. 48-54.

### **Week Two:** “With His Passion for Poetry and Wine, Scholar Lu Scorns Dukes and Earls”

“Lu Nan,” in L. Carrington Goodrich and Zhaoying Fang, *Dictionary of Ming Biography, 1368–1644* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1976), pp. 995-97.

### **Week Three:** No class.

### **Week Four:** Re-read “Magistrate Deng” and “Scholar Lu.”

Graham Sanders, “Out with It!” *Philosophy and Culture* 37.3 (2010): 103-130.

### **Week Five:** Nancy Park, “Unofficial Perspectives on Torture in Ming and Qing China.” *Late Imperial China* 37, no. 1 (2016): 17-54.

### **Week Six:** “Shi Fu Meets a Friend at Tanque” (“Shih Jun-tse Meets a Friend at the Strand”)

### **Week Seven:** Re-read “Shi Fu.” E-tu Zen Sun, “Frugality and Wealth in a Ming Tale,” in her *Selected Essays in Chinese Economic History* (Taiwan: Student Book Co., 1981), pp. 181-191

### **Week Eight:** “Yang Balao’s Extraordinary Family Reunion in the Land of Yue”

Tonio Andrade and Xing Hang, “Introduction: The East Asian Maritime Realm in Global History, 1550-1700,” in *Sea Rovers, Silver, and Samurai: Maritime East Asia in Global History, 1550-1700* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2016), pp. 1-27.

### **Week Nine:** “Ren the Filial Son with a Fiery Disposition Becomes a God”

Sarah Schneewind, “Is Ren Gui Really Filial?” *Ming Studies* 20 (2009): 115-120