Rhetorics of Fate and Future
History 310
Spring 2005
Tuesdays 7:00-11:00

Robert André LaFleur
Office Hours
MI 111
Monday 2:00-4:00
365-2144
Wednesday 2:00-4:00
lafleur@beloit.edu

Required Books
Doré, Henri, Researches into Chinese Superstitions
Fang, Achilles, The Chronicle of the Three Kingdoms (Volume 1)
Grafton, Anthony, Cardano’s Cosmos
Granet, Marcel, The Religion of the Chinese People
Morgan, Carol, Le tableau de boeuf du printemps
Nussbaum, Martha, The Fragility of Goodness
Palmer, Martin, T’ung Shu: The Ancient Chinese Almanac
Roberts, Moss, Three Kingdoms
Roy, David, The Plum in the Golden Vase (Volume 1)
Shaughnessy, Edward, China: Empire and Civilization
Smith, Richard, China’s Cultural Heritage
Smith, Richard, Chinese Almanacs
Smith, Richard, Fortune Tellers and Philosophers
Stein, Rolf, The World in Miniature
Wheatley, Paul, The Pivot of the Four Quarters

Course Description
In this course we will examine the way that various cultural traditions have come to terms with the unknown—particularly the “fates” of individuals and societies—in the course of planning for the present and negotiating the challenges of everyday life.

The heart of the course will consist of a close reading of a number of key texts from the Chinese tradition that have been misunderstood (and even misused) by scholars over the centuries. We will give context to these readings by examining a wide range of historical and ethnographic materials that analyze the language of fate and future in China and beyond. We will conclude the course with a set of comparative analyses of “fate discourse,” including Greek conceptions of morality and luck and medieval European cosmology.

Evaluation
Logs and short assignments 50%
Final Presentations 20%
Seminar Paper 50%

Class attendance and participation is expected. More than one absence will significantly affect your grade. Late assignments will be penalized. All coursework is due on April 28, 2005.
### Week I (January 18)

**Shaughnessy, *China: Empire and Civilization*: 1-237**

**Part 1: The Chinese World**

- “All Under Heaven” 12-23
- Continuity and Change 24-43
- The Role of the State 44-55
- Family and Society 56-67
- The Creation of Wealth 68-75

**Part 2: Belief and Ritual**

- Confucianism: Order and Virtue 78-89
- Following the Dao 90-107
- The Way of the Buddha 108-119
- The Harmony of Heaven and Earth 120-135
- The Realm of Ghosts and Spirits 136-145

**Part 3: Creation and Discovery**

- Healing and Medicine 148-165
- Technology and Science 166-183
- The Fine and Decorative Arts 184-203
- The Performing Arts 204-211
- Architecture and Planning 212-229
- Afterword: The Legacy of 4,000 Years 230-237

### Week II (January 25)

**Smith, *China’s Cultural Heritage***

- Introduction 1-9
- The Qing Inheritance 11-40
- The Qing Political Order 41-67
- Social and Economic Institutions 69-100
- Language and Symbolic Reference 101-128
- Thought 129-153
- Religion 155-185
- Art 187-217
- Literature 219-243
- Social Life 245-276
- Tradition and Modernity 277-298

### Week III (February 1)

**Doré, *Researches into Chinese Superstitions***

**Volume One**

- Birth and Childhood 1-28
- Betrothal and Marriage 29-40
- Death and Burial 41-68
- Written Charms for the Benefit of the Dead 69-96
- Diverse Superstitions for the Benefit of the Dead 97-154

**Volume Two**

- Healing Charms, Lucky Charms, Petition Charms 157-227

**Volume Three**

- Literal Explanation and Full Reading of All Charms 229-320
Week IV (February 8)
Granet, The Religion of the Chinese People: 1-156
Maurice Freedman, “Marcel Granet, 1884-1940, Sociologist” 1-29
Preface 33-36
Peasant Religion 37-56
Feudal Religion 57-96
The Official Religion 96-119
Religious Revivals 120-143
Religious Sentiment in Modern China 144-156

Week V (February 15)
Stein, The World in Miniature: xvii-xxvi; 1-272
Edward Schafer: Foreword xvii-xix
Author’s Preface xxi-xxvi
In Memory of Marcel Granet 1-3
Trees, Stones, and Landscapes in Containers 5-48
Survey of Themes 49-119
Dwelling Places and their Physical Details 121-174
The World and Architecture in Religious Thought 175-272

Week VI (February 22)
Wheatley, The Pivot of the Four Quarters
Part One The City in Ancient China
The Genesis of the Chinese City 3-106
The Diffusion of Urban Life in Ancient China 107-221
Part Two The Early Chinese City in Comparative Perspective
The Nature of the Ceremonial Center 225-570
The Urban Character of the Ceremonial Complex 371-410
The Ancient Chinese City as a Cosmo-Magical Symbol 411-476
Conclusion 477-482
Week VII (March 1)
Smith, *Chinese Almanacs*: 1-84
- The Relationship Between Calendars and Almanacs: 1-18
- Qing Dynasty Almanacs: 19-39
- Chinese Almanacs and Mainland Almanacs: 40-62
- Almanacs in Present-day Hong Kong and Taiwan: 63-80
- Conclusion: 81-84
- The Sections of the Almanac: 1-7
- Preface: 8-12
- Introduction: 13-40
- T’ung Shu: The Ancient Chinese Almanac: 41-217
- The Ten Heavenly Stems and the Twelve Earthly Branches: 218-219
Morgan, *Le tableau du bœuf du printemps*: 1-115
- Introduction: 1-12
- Calendriers et almanachs: 13-47
- Fêtes marquant le passage à une année nouvelle: 48-58
- Ancêtres présumés du Bœuf du Printemps et du bouvier: 59-65
- Le Processions du Bœuf du Printemps: 66-83
- Manifestations en rapport avec la fête du printemps: 84-92
- Le Tableau du Bœuf du Printemps: 93-115

Week VIII (March 8)
*Spring Break*

Week IX (March 15)
Smith, *Fortune Tellers and Philosophers*: 1-287
- Introduction: 1-11
- Viewing the Flowers from Horseback: 13-47
- Orthodox Cosmology in the Qing: 49-91
- The *Yijing* in Qing Society: 93-129
- The Ways of Wind and Water: 131-171
- Reading Fate: 173-219
- Spirit Mediums and Spirit Messages: 221-257
- Conclusion: 259-287
Morgan, *Le tableau du bœuf du printemps*: 116-251
- Traduction des frontispices de cinq almanachs: 116-157
- L’année astrologique et géomantique: 158-174
- Les étoiles astrologiques: 175-187
- Les figures géométriques du *liunian dali*: 188-231
- Les huit caractères, *bazi*: 232-245
- Conclusion: 246-251

Week X (March 22)
Roberts, *Three Kingdoms*: 3-407
- Ch.1 Three Bold Spirits Plight Mutual Faith in the Peach Garden; Heroes and Champions Win First Honors Fighting…: 3-14
- Ch.2 Zhang Fei Whips the Government Inspector; Imperial In-law He Jin Plots Against the Eunuchs: 15-29
- Ch.3 In Wenming Garden, Dong Zhuo Denounces Ding Yuan; With Gold and Pearls, Li Su Plies Lü Bu: 29-30
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ch.4</td>
<td>The Installation of the Chenliu Prince</td>
<td>30-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.5</td>
<td>Cao Cao Rallies the Lords with a Forged Decree; Emperor Shao is Deposed; Cao Cao Presents a Jeweled Knife</td>
<td>35-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.8</td>
<td>Wang Yun Shrewdly Sets a Double Snare; Dong Zhuo Starts a Brawl at Phoenix Pavilion</td>
<td>40-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.9</td>
<td>Lü Bu Kills the Tyrant for Wang Yun; Li Jue Invades the Capital on Jia Xu’s Advice</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.20</td>
<td>Cao Cao Leads the Royal Hunt near the Capital; Dong Cheng Receives a Mandate in the Palace</td>
<td>59-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.21</td>
<td>Cao Cao Warms Wine and Rates the Heroes of the Realm; Lord Guan Takes Xuzhou by Strategem and Beheads Che Zhou</td>
<td>69-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.25</td>
<td>Trapped on a Hill, Lord Guan Sets Three Conditions; At Baima, Cao Cao Breaks the Heavy Siege</td>
<td>77-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.26</td>
<td>Yuan Shao Loses a Battle and Another General; Lord Guan Returns His Official Seal</td>
<td>88-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.27</td>
<td>The Man of the Magnificent Beard Rides Alone a Thousand Li; The Lord of Hanshou Slays Six Generals and Breaches…</td>
<td>91-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.28</td>
<td>Lord Guan Slays Cai Yang, Dispelling His Brother’s Doubts; Liege and Liege Men Unite Again at Gucheng</td>
<td>94-101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.34</td>
<td>Lady Cai Eavesdrops on a Private Talk; Imperial Uncle Liu Vaults the River Tan on Horseback</td>
<td>101-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.35</td>
<td>Xuande Encounters a Recluse in Nanzhang; Shan Fu Finds a Hero-Lord in Xinye</td>
<td>111-119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.36</td>
<td>Xuande Surprises the Town of Fan; Shan Fu Recommends Zhuge Liang</td>
<td>119-128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.37</td>
<td>Still Water Recommends Another Noted Scholar; Liu Xuande pays Three Visits to Zhuge Liang</td>
<td>129-141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.38</td>
<td>Kongming Determines the Realms Division and Charts…; Sun Quan Leads a Naval Attack and Exacts Revenge</td>
<td>141-153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.39</td>
<td>Jingzhou’s Heir Pleads Three Times for Advice; The Director General Makes Debut at Bowang</td>
<td>154-164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.40</td>
<td>Lady Cai Proposes Ceding Jingzhou to Cao Cao; Zhuge Liang Burns Cao’s Men in Xinye</td>
<td>164-174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.41</td>
<td>Liu Xuande Leads His Flock Over the River; Zhao Zilong Rescues Master Liu Single-handedly</td>
<td>174-187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.42</td>
<td>Zhang Fei Makes an Uproar at Steepslope Bridge; Xuande, Defeated, Flees to the Han River Ford</td>
<td>188-196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.43</td>
<td>Kongming Debates the Southern Officials; Lu Su Rejects the Consensus</td>
<td>196-209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.44</td>
<td>Kongming Cunningly Moves Zhou Yu to Anger; Sun Quan Decides on a Plan to Defeat Cao Cao</td>
<td>209-220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.45</td>
<td>Cao Cao Suffers Casualties at Three Rivers; Jiang Gan Springs a Trap at the Congregation of Heroes</td>
<td>220-232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.46</td>
<td>Kongming Borrows Cao Cao’s Arrows through a Ruse; Huang Gai is Flogged Following a Secret Plan</td>
<td>232-242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.47</td>
<td>Kan Ze’s Secret Letter Offering a Sham Surrender; Pang Tong’s Shrewd Plan for Connecting the Boats</td>
<td>242-251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.48</td>
<td>Feasting on the Great River, Cao Cao Sings an Ode; Linking Its Boats, the North Prepares for War</td>
<td>251-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.49</td>
<td>On Seven Star Altar Kongming Supplices the Wind; At Three Rivers Zhou Yu Unleashes the Fire</td>
<td>260-272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.50</td>
<td>Kongming Foresees the Outcome at Huarong; Lord Guan Releases, and Obligates, Cao Cao</td>
<td>272-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.51</td>
<td>Cao Ren Battles the Southland Troops; Kongming Spoils Zhou Yu’s Victory</td>
<td>281-283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch.52</td>
<td>Zhuge Liang Temporizes with Lu Su; Zhao Zilong Captures Guiyang</td>
<td>284-286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Week XII (April 5)*

Preface to the *Chin P'ing Mei Tzu-hua* 3
Preface to the *Chin P'ing Mei* 6
Colophon 7
Four Lyrics to the Tune “Burning Incense” 8
Lyrics on the Four Vices to the Tune of “Partridge Sky” 10

Ch.1 Wu Sung Fights a Tiger on Chin-yang Ridge; P’an Chin-lien Disdains her Mate and Plays… 12-42
Ch.2 Beneath the Blind Hsi-men Ch’ing Meets Chin-lien; Inspired by Greed Dame Wang Speaks of Romance 43-61
Ch.3 Dame Wang Proposes a Ten-part Plan for “Garnering the Glow”; Hsi-men Ch’ing Flirts with Chin-lien in the Teahouse 62-81
Ch.4 The Hussy Commits Adultery Behind Wu the Elder’s Back; Yün-ko in His Anger Raises a Rumpus in the Teashop 82-96
Ch.5 Yün-ko Lends a Hand by Cursing Dame Wang; Auntie Hsüeh Proposes a Match with Meng Yü-lou; Aunt Yang Angrily Curses Chang the Fourth 96-110
Ch.6 Hsi-men Ch’ing Suborns Ho the Ninth; Dame Wang Fetches Wine and Encounters a Downpour 111-124
Ch.7 Hsi-men and His Harem Revel in the Hibiscus Pavilion 188-204
Ch.8 All Night Long P’an Chin-lien Yearns for Hsi-men Ch’ing; During the Tablet-burning Monks Overhear Sounds of Venery 147-169
Ch.9 Hsi-men Ch’ing Conspires to Marry P’an Chin-lien; Captain Wu Mistakenly Assaulpts Li Wai-chuan 170-187
Ch.10 Wu the Second is Condemned to Exile in Meng-chou; Hsi-men and His Harem Revel in the Hibiscus Pavilion 188-204
Ch.11 P’an Chin-lien Instigates the Beating of Sun Hsüeh-o; Hsi-men Ch’ing Decides to Deflower Li Kuei-chieh 205-223
Ch.12 P’an Chin-lien Suffers Ignominy for Adultery with a Servant; Stargazer Liu Purveys Black Magic in Pursuit of Gain 224-252
Ch.13 Li P’ing-erh Takes Care of Things in the Eastern Capital; The Maid Ying-ch’ un Peeks…and Gets and Eyeful 253-273
Ch.14 Hua Tzu-hsü Succumbs to Chagrin and Loses His Life; Li P’ing-erh Invites Seduction and Attends a Party 274-297
Ch.15 Li P’ing-erh Takes Chiang Chu-shan as Mate 337-355
Ch.16 Hsi-men Ch’ing Is Inspired by Greed to Contemplate Matrimony; Ying Po-chüeh Steals a March in Anticipation of the Ceremony 316-336
Ch.17 Chan Ch’en-chi Supervises the Work in the Flower Garden 356-375
Ch.18 Meng Yü-lou High-mindedly Intercedes with Wu Yüeh-niang; Hsi-men Ch’ing Wreaks Havoc in the Verdant Spring Bordello 401-428
**Week XIII** (April 12)
Grafton, *Cardano's Cosmos*: 1-202

- The Master of Time 1-21
- The Astrologer’s Practice 22-37
- The Prognosticicator 38-55
- The Astrologer 56-70
- Becoming an Author 71-90
- Astrologers in Collision 91-108
- The Astrologer as Political Counselor 109-126
- Classical Astrology Restored 127-155
- Rival Disciplines Explored 156-177
- Cardano on Cardano 178-198
- The Astrologer as Empiricist 199-202

**Week XIV** (April 19)
Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness*: 1-421

- Luck and Ethics 1-22
  - Part I Tragedy: Fragility and Ambition 23-24
  - Aeschylus and Practical Conflict 25-50
  - Sophocles’ *Antigone*: Conflict, Vision, and Simplification 51-82
  - Conclusion to Part I 83-84
  - Part II Plato: Goodness Without Fragility? 87-88
- The *Protagoras*: A Science of Practical Reasoning 89-121
  - Interlude I: Plato’s Anti-tragic Theater 122-135
- The *Republic*: True Value and the Standpoint of Perfection 136-164
- The Speech of Alcibiades: a Reading of the *Symposium* 165-199
- "This Story Isn’t True": Madness, Reason, and Recantation 200-234
  - Part III Aristotle: The Fragility of the Good Human Life 235-239
- Saving Aristotle’s Appearances 240-263
- Rational Animals and the Explanation of Action 264-289
- Non-scientific Deliberation 290-317
- The Vulnerability...: Activity and Disaster 318-342
- The Vulnerability...: Relational Goods 343-372
  - Appendix to Part III: Human and Divine 373-377
- Interlude 2: Luck and the Tragic Emotions 378-394
- Epilogue: Tragedy 395-396
- The Betrayal of Convention: A Reading of... *Hecuba* 397-421

**Week XV** (April 26)
No Meeting — Work on Seminar Papers

*Seminar Papers Due by 5:00 p.m. on April 28th.*

**Week XVI** (May 3)
Presentations