Welcome (back) to Chinese 660: Second semester Classical Chinese!
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Course description: Chn 660 helps you build on the foundation you laid last semester for Classical Chinese—language of the Confucian Analects, of the Dynastic Histories, of innumerable beautiful poems and profound essays, and much more.
Course objective: Chn 660 forms a bridge between the elementary sentence patterns you learned in Chn 461, and the more sophisticated, more challenging readings in second-year Classical Chinese. The course aims to take you across that bridge. This involves accomplishing the following student learning outcomes:
* you will learn to understand and translate a wider variety of intermediate-level Classical texts;
* your ability to understand and translate a wider variety of intermediate-level Classical texts will increase;
* you will review and improve your grip on fundamental syntactic patterns, as they appear nested in more complex constructions;
* your vocabulary, and your arsenal of relevant genre-specific and broader cultural information, will expand;
* your translation accuracy, fluency, and speed will improve dramatically.
Course mechanics/grading: This semester we continue as a small-group translation course, aiming to cover some early texts and then a variety of entries displaying different features of Literary Chinese. We will also translate approximately 6 longer texts as written homework. Grading as follows: *class performance (based on translation skill, ability to apply grammar patterns, mastery of relevant cultural information and reading strategies) 51% [Attendance is important; please let me know if you MUST miss class…];
* 5 homework assignments (judged on accuracy): 49%. The last assignment will serve as an “exit assessment” of your success in achieving the course objectives. (I reserve the right to add a sixth assignment if previous ones show a need for more practice). Of course, don’t even think about handing assignments in late!
Texts: We will provide you with a course package (which will have to be dribbled out online, via Laulima); early on we will use texts with English glosses, beginning with some of the more advanced lessons from Shadick, Elementary Classical Chinese. Soon we will advance to modern Chinese glosses (from the 王力, 古代漢語 series), then to texts with only Classical Chinese glosses, and finally to some unannotated texts. A full list of readings depends partly on your needs and interests, so do consider and make requests! A sample Schedule for the first several weeks follows; pace will vary somewhat, depending on your ability:
Week 1: Shadick, Lesson 17 (Han history)
Week 2: Shadick, Lesson 18 (advanced dictionary practice; will explore online resources)
Week 3: Shadick, Lesson 21 (Xunzi 9)
Week 4: Shadick, Lesson 22 (Lunyu selections)
Week 5: Shadick, Lesson 27 (poems and songs)
Week 6: Shadick, Lesson 29 (Qing political documents)…
Weeks 7-8: 王力 3 excerpts from 戰國策
Subsequent readings will depend on class needs and recommendations.
Prerequisite: Chn 461 or equivalent. You must have mastered the basic syntactic patterns, vocabulary, and reading strategies taught in Chn 461 to take this course. If you have any questions about your background in Classical Chinese, do ask me—on Day 1!