This course aims to improve your progress in grasping Classical Chinese, in its many guises and styles. We’ll take a largely historical approach, which means beginning with some of the most ancient and forbidding genres, in particular, 左傳. After perusing a selection from Warring States 战国 texts, we’ll move into the Common Era, and look at some Han and 6 Dynasties literature (汉魏六朝). Second semester we’ll hope to read more medieval and later selections. But all this depends on YOUR needs and interests; please give some thought to what (and what kinds of material) you most want to read. We’ll arrange the course as much as possible around a consensus of which texts (and which parts) will best suit the common needs of the class.

Student Learning Outcome: By the end of this course, you should have come ¾ of the way toward a PhD reading exam level competence in reading ancient texts. Skills you should possess by semester’s end: mastery of basic grammar patterns, and the ability to detect how they work in more complex stylistic constructions; growing acquaintance with the common meanings of Sinographs in different kinds of texts, and increasing sophistication about how to look up these meanings; a growing ability to anticipate what ancient/medieval authors usually want to say, and a concomitant ability to “enter into” the worlds of Old Chinese culture and engage with these texts “on their own terms.” Syntax, semantics, context—each plays a role in the development of competent readers and translators.

To achieve these goals, we will meet seminar fashion, twice a week, to translate texts. This means that each of our ~28 substantial sessions makes up a significant part of the course; try not to get sick :-) During the semester, I’ll ask you to complete (roughly) 5 written translations, as well. Grading will consider: translation proficiency; progress from baseline (first assignment) to exit level; and effort (as displayed, for example, in class preparation); the balance between written work and oral in-class work will approximate 50% each.

At this point, it’s hard (pending requests) to write a schedule in stone. Based on past experience, we can expect roughly to cover the following material at first:

Week 1 (Aug. 25) 左傳; [zhanguo-661]
Week 2 (Sept. 1) first assignment due. start 戰國策, etc. [zhanguo-661]
Week 3 (Sept. 8) 戰國策, etc; second assignment due. [zhanguo-661]
Week 4 (Sept. 15) time to start considering requests…

Texts will run off Laulima; secondary materials depend on your needs. We presume some knowledge of elementary Classical grammar, on the model of Chn 461 or, alternatively, Pulleyblank’s Grammar of Classical Chinese (see library). We also assume you have an adequate dictionary. If you need guidance in this area, please feel free to ask…

We welcome you and look forward to learning more about Old Chinese with you. If you have at any point suggestions about how to make the course better or have other input/questions, please get in touch: we’re here to accommodate you.
Chn 662 Intermediate Classical Chn. WF 8:30-9:45, Moore 358.
david McCraw: Lincoln Annex 5, 6-6853; mccraw@hawaii.edu (hours: by app’t)

This course aims to improve your grasp of Classical Chinese, in its many guises and styles. We’ll continue our largely historical approach, which means beginning with some medieval “tales of abnormalities,” and then read more essays and stories from Tang through Qing China. Of course, as before, selections depend on YOUR needs and interests; please give some thought to what (and what kinds of material) you most want to read. We’ll arrange the course as much as possible around a consensus of which texts (and which parts) will best suit the common needs of the class.

**Student Learning Outcome:** By the end of this course, you should have completed your path toward PhD reading exam level competence in reading ancient texts. You should possess sufficient mastery of basic syntactic patterns and sufficient understanding of semantic values to understand most Classical pieces, except for difficult passages. You should now have learned to use the most powerful dictionaries, such as the 漢語大詞典. You should also possess enough “sight-reading” skills to peruse material within your specialty quickly, with rough comprehension, to spot useful nuggets for your research. You should now possess the skills needed to pass, for example, the Philosophy Dep’t PhD reading exam for Old Chinese.

To achieve these goals, we will meet seminar fashion, twice a week, to translate texts. This means that each of our ~28 substantial sessions makes up a significant part of the course; try not to get sick :-). During the semester, I’ll ask you to complete 5 (roughly) written translations, as well. Grading will consider: translation proficiency; progress from baseline (first assignment) to exit level; and effort (as displayed, for example, in class preparation); the balance between written work and oral in-class work will be approximately 50%.

At this point, it’s hard to write a schedule in stone. Based on past experience, we can expect roughly to cover the following material at first:

**Week 1** (Jan. 09, 11) 志怪; first assignment handed out.
**Week 2** (Jan. 18) more 志怪; first assignment due.
**Week 3** (Jan. 25, 27) still more 志怪.
**Week 4** (Feb. 1, 3) Tang essays (Han Yu, Liu Zongyuan), perhaps; time to consider requests…2nd assignment handed out.

Texts will run off Laulima; secondary materials depend on your needs. We presume some knowledge of elementary Classical grammar, on the model of Chn 461 or, alternatively, Pulleyblank’s *Grammar of Classical Chinese* (see library). We also assume you have an adequate dictionary. If you need guidance in this area, please feel free to ask…

We welcome you and look forward to learning more about Old Chinese with you. If you have at any point suggestions about how to make the course better or have other input/questions, please get in touch: we’re here to accommodate you.
As ever: selected poems by Joanne Kyger
Going on: selected poems, 1958-1980 by Joanne Kyger
gary Snyder: w/lew welch late Sierra nt rdcampfire; long silence. Lew: do rocks pay t trees any mind? GS:I
don’t know; what r u driving at, Lew? LW: Well, t trees are just passing through.
As the crickets' soft autumn hum is to us
so are we to the trees
as are they to the rocks and the hills.

*My friend Deane took me into the Yuba Goldfields. That’s at the lower Yuba river where it enters the
Sacramento Valley flatlands, a mile-wide stretch between grass & blue oak meadows. It goes on for ten
miles. Here's where the mining tailings got dropped off by the wandering riverbed of the 1870s forty miles
downstream from where the giant hoses washed them off Sierra slopes. We were walking on blue lupine-
covered rounded hundred-foot gravel hills til we stood over the springtime rush of water. Watched a female
osprey hunting along the main river channel. Her flight shot up, down, all sides, suddenly fell feet first into
the river and emerged with a fish. Maybe fooling the fish by zigzagging, so no hawk shadow. Carole said
later: That’s like trying to do zazen without your self entering into it.

No Shadow
Standing on a gravel hill by the lower Yuba
can see down west a giant airforce cargo plane from Beale
hang-gliding down to land
strangely slow over the tumbled dredged out goldfields
- practice run
shadow of a cargo jet - soon gone []
no-shadow of an osprey []
still here

How Many
Australia, a group of girls at corroborree
Lappland, reindeer herdgirls
China, the "yaktail"
Greece, the seven daughters, sisters,
or the "sailing stars"
a cluster of faint stars in Taurus,
the Pleiades,
name of a car in Japan—
Subaru;
in Mayan:
"A fistful of boys."

"Waiting for a Ride":
Standing at the baggage passing time:
Austin Texas airport—my ride hasn’t come yet.
My former wife is making websites from her home,
one son’s seldom seen,
the other one and his wife have a boy and girl of their own.
My wife and stepdaughter are spending weekdays in town
so she can get to high school.
My mother ninety-six still lives alone and she’s in town too,
always gets her sanity back just barely in time.
My former former wife has become a unique poet;
most of my work,
such as it is is done.
Full moon was October second this year,
I ate a mooncake, slept out on the deck
white light beaming through the black boughs of the pine
owl hoots and rattling antlers,
Castor and Pollux rising strong
—it’s good to know that the Pole Star drifts!
that even our present night sky slips away,
ot that I’ll see it.
Or maybe I will, much later,
some far time walking the spirit path in the sky,
that long walk of spirits—where you fall right back into the
“narrow painful passageway of the Bardo”
squeeze your little skull
and there you are again []
waiting for your ride

"Mid-August at Sourdough Mountain Lookout"
Down valley a smoke haze
Three days heat, after five days rain
Pitch glows on the fir-cones
Across rocks and meadows
Swarms of new flies. []
I cannot remember things I once read
A few friends, but they are in cities.
Drinking cold snow-water from a tin cup
Looking down for miles
Through high still air.

A. R. Ammons poem called "In View of the Fact" which starts

The people of my time are passing away: my
wife is baking for a funeral, a 60-year-old who
died suddenly, when the phone rings, and it's
Ruth we care so much about in intensive care:

it was once weddings that came so thick and
fast, and then, first babies, such a hullabaloo:

now, it's this that and the other and somebody
else gone or on the brink: well, we never

thought we would live forever (although we did)
and now it looks like we won't: some of us...