

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Special Topics in Chinese Studies Tradition, Invented Tradition**

**Course Number and Section:**

CHINESE

3956G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Professor Sean Macdonald

**Instructor Email(s):** smacd273@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

There are no prerequisites for this course. "Tradition, Invented Tradition" offers a close look at selected themes. This semester we will be reading texts and watching electronic media to focus on concepts of tradition in Chinese culture. How do we define "tradition"? The first step we take includes readings of how we construct concepts through language. We begin with two classic stories, one by Lu Xun, "Kong Yiji," and one story by Eileen Chang/Zhang Ailing, "Jasmine Tea." We will also read examples of popular Daoist and Buddhist literature. Kenneth Dean's doc Bored in Heaven offers a significant perspective on ritual alliances in the southeast of Fujian province. Time permitting, we will take a look at the complex ways culture and traditions circulate in contemporary media. This course is taught in English and requires no previous knowledge of Chinese culture or language.

### Learning Outcomes:

Explore concepts of tradition in Chinese culture

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Grant, Beata, and W L. Idema (trans.), *Escape from Blood Pond Hell: The Tales of Mulian and Woman Huang*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014.

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### Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation & reading notes *		30%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
*This course includes readings of fiction and non-fiction. Sometimes I will, with guidance, ask you to submit notes on a particular reading or lecture. Sometimes these notes may also be requested as talking points for classroom discussion.		
Responses		30%
Research paper: (7-10 pages)		40%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025