

Women and the Supernatural in Chinese Literature

CHIN3361 | 3 CREDITS | Fall 2017



Course Description

In this course, taught in English, we will explore the relationship between women and the supernatural in Chinese literature from ancient to modern times. By engaging closely with poetry, short stories, plays, religious texts, and excerpts from novels, we will both explore liminal spaces occupied by supernatural women and analyze uncanny encounters human women have with agents of the supernatural. Do conceptions of female gender in pre-modern China affect the way such literature conceives of women as supernatural beings or experiencers of the supernatural? Do these spaces beyond the norm afford women broadened roles, or do they replicate the social and political structures that govern the mundane? Finally, can these Chinese works help us to examine our own assumptions about gender, society, and literature?

Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of Prof. Alexander.

Schedule: M-W-F 1-1:50pm

Location: Hellems 263

For additional information, please contact Katherine Alexander at katherine.alexander@colorado.edu