



## “The Heart of the Matter”: The Place and Function of *xin* in Early Chinese Thought: the Problem or the Solution? (EAS1100H)

In this course we will investigate the concept of the ‘heart’ (or ‘mind’) in traditional Chinese thought, through the close reading of a variety of classical sources that take up the emotional, cognitive, and spiritual faculties subsumed under the Chinese term *xin* (“heart”) as an object of philosophical inquiry. The passages to be analyzed will be drawn from the seminal works of Confucian and Daoist thought, the synthetic compendia of Qin and Han, the primary sutras of Chinese Buddhism and major Neo-Confucian writings from Tang and Song to Ming and Qing. We will then use these diverse ideas on *xin* as a basis for exploring the vagaries of the human heart reflected in a variety of literary texts, from classical poetry to Ming-Qing fiction and drama, with special attention given to the masterworks *Mudanting*, *Xiyouji* and *Hongloumeng*. Students will be assumed to have facility in reading Classical Chinese, but the course will also be open to others, for whom all of the texts will be available in English translation.

### A seminar with Professor Andrew Plaks

Andrew Plaks is Professor Emeritus of East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature at Princeton University. Plaks received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1973. He is interested in various aspects of classical Chinese literature, including Ming-Qing fiction and early Chinese philosophical and historical texts, as well as topics in pre-modern Japanese literature. Professor Plaks' major works include *Archetype and Allegory in the Dream of the Red Chamber* and *The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel*.

### February 6-15 & March 5-14

<b>Wednesday</b> , Feb 6	1:30 – 4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b> , Feb 8	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Tuesday</b> , Feb 12	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Wednesday</b> , Feb 13	1:30 – 4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b> , Feb 15	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Tuesday</b> , March 5	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Wednesday</b> , March 6	1:30 – 4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b> , March 8	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Tuesday</b> , March 12	9 am – 12 pm
<b>Wednesday</b> , March 13	1:30 – 4:30 pm

**PUBLIC TALK**, Date TBA

The seminar is available for registration on ROSI. If you are not an SGS student and would like to inquire about registering or auditing, please contact us:

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