What is the relationship between Chinese literature and Chinese history/culture/civilization?

Why has poetry held such an important place in Chinese literature up to the present? (or any dynasty)

Does the moral/ethical aspect of Chinese literature take away or contribute to the success of the literature?

How important were women in the creation of Chinese literature? How were their roles in the creation of literature obfuscated?

In what ways does Buddhism become a central concern in Chinese literature? (What about Daoism?)

How did Chinese literature/culture/civilization reinvent itself throughout its history?

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- History - East Asia
- Introduction to Chinese History
- Introduction to Chinese Literature

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Dao or Tao:
  - Literally "road", metaphorically "the Way"
- Confucianism:
  - A school of thought derived from Confucius' (551-479) insights into human nature and conduct
- Genre:
  - Format by which to classify literature
- Modernity:
  - The latest phase in human development in which all aspects of culture (including literature) have been transformed to reflect the modern world

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the relationship between Chinese literature and Chinese history/culture/civilization?
2. Why has poetry held such an important place in Chinese literature up to the present? (or any dynasty)
3. Does the moral/ethical aspect of Chinese literature take away or contribute to the success of the literature?
4. How important were women in the creation of Chinese literature? How were their roles in the creation of literature obfuscated?
5. In what ways does Buddhism become a central concern in Chinese literature? (What about Daoism?)
6. How did Chinese literature/culture/civilization reinvent itself throughout its history?
7. What role did the state, the government, politics, etc. in the creation and development of Chinese literature?
8. Name the most important writer from each period. How would compare and/or contrast them from each other?
9. What is the most beautiful or aesthetically pleasing work in the Chinese tradition to you? Why?
10. How does geography impact Chinese literature? (Consider landscapes such as rivers, mountains, deserts, plains, and other features in your discussion).

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:
- “Chinese Text Project” https://ctext.org/
- The Ohio State University - “MCLC Resource Center” https://u.osu.edu/mclc/

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