



Undergraduate assignment feedback form

(to be completed by marker)

<i>Student Name:</i> Zhuang Peilin (莊沛霖)	
<i>Module Code:</i> SICH5004 <i>Module title:</i> The Governing Principles of Ancient China: Selected Readings in the Book of Poetry and Book of History	<i>Student number:</i> 1804391
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i> 	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

king and ministers live in harmony

character count:1549

Respected provost and my dear teacher, hello everyone, today I would like to discuss the topic, 'king and ministers live in harmony'. Firstly, according to the explanation of *The Preface of Mao Poem*, I chose three poems from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*. These three poems describe the scenes of the king entertaining ministers, the king entertaining brothers and the king entertaining friends. The first poem is *Luming*. Zhu Xi of the Song Dynasty believed that this poem was originally sung by the king when he entertained his ministers. Later, it was popularized to the people, and ordinary people can also sing at banquets. His views were in line with the background of that times. Until Late Eastern Han Dynasty, Cao Cao quoted this poem in his *Duan Ge Xing* to express his mood that he hoped to have talents to help him govern the country, just like he was thirsty and wanted to drink water. At the beginning of *Luming*, it describes a very harmonious picture, a group of elk leisurely eating weeds, also they chirp from time to time which is really pleasant. To lighten up what should have been a serious and tense. Because there was a saying in ancient times that accompanying an king was like accompanying a tiger, if ministers offend the king the consequences will be very serious. The king holds the power of life and death of his ministers, so his ministers are inevitably cautious and concerned about whether they will offend the king by their words and deeds. There is a very strict etiquette between the king and the ministers, in the face of the king to have 100 percent respect, can not have any relaxation. Such strict etiquette can lead to the loss of the gaiety of a banquets. *Luming*, as the song played at the banquet, sets the tone of harmony and joy through which the king can bring his ministers closer to him, because, the poem is brimming with harmonious and happy from beginning to end. According to the etiquette of that time, the entire banquet should be accompanied by music, depending on the book of Rites, three poems will be sung at the banquet hosted by the king, namely, *Luming* *Simu* and *huanghuangzhehua*. The music score

has been lost for a long time, but based on the words and the historical context of these poems it seems that all three poems are very cheerful and harmonious. The king will present gifts to his ministers and then make a speech. The king welcomes the presence of ministers, willing to tell the king the real truth, the speech is also to show the king is willing to hear the advice of an attitude. In addition to the banquet, the most important thing is that the king should reward the minister for meritorious service, and respectfully hand over a basket full of property to the minister. The purpose is to remind king that he should be grateful to those who have rendered service to his country, and set an example for the people of the world while maintaining a good relationship between the king and the minister. An king who can understand the virtues of his ministers must be able to recruit the world's talents to assist him with all their hearts. The second poem, called Chang Di, is about the music when the ancient brothers were entertained. In ancient times, the struggle for power was a very cruel thing. It was not uncommon for brothers, uncles and nephews to kill each other. The background story of this poem took place in the Zhou Dynasty. The background story of this poem took place in the Zhou Dynasty. After the establishment of the Zhou Dynasty, king Wu died less than two years after his reign. His son, king Cheng of Zhou Dynasty, succeeded to the throne, but he was too young to manage the country, because the Zhou Dynasty had just been established, the regime was still unstable, there were countless things to deal with in domestic, and at the same time, he had to resist the invasion of foreign nationalities. So the Duke of Zhou had to help govern the country instead of king Cheng of Zhou. The Duke of Zhou decided to return his power to king Cheng of Zhou when he grew up. The brothers of Duke Zhou did not have such foresight. They believed that Duke Zhou wanted to usurp the throne. Guan Shuxian, Cai Shudu and Huo Shuchu united with foreigners to oppose Duke Zhou and force him to hand over power. After two years of war, Duke Zhou finally succeeded in suppressing the rebellion. He executed Guan Shu and exiled Cai Shu. Although Duke Zhou had a deep brotherhood with his brothers, he could only destroy his brothers in righteousness as a last resort. Tangdi, Chinese bush cherry a kind of white poplar, symbolizes brothers because the flower

can bloom its beauty only with the protection and assistance of calyx. The relationship between the two is as inseparable and complementary as brothers. The poem begins with, tangdi flower is very beautiful, and the calyx room protecting the flower is so bright. There is nothing more important to get along with people than brothers. I am afraid to see my dead brothers, and I miss my brothers very much. That is to say, brothers who died in battle on the plateau or flat ground are actively look skeleton for and bringing them together. Brothers live in harmony in the field, so we brothers We should share the difficulties. Although we have good friends, they all stand idly by when we are in danger. In the famous Xuanwumen incident in history, king Taizong of Tang Dynasty planned a mutiny and killed his big brother and litter brother. Although what has happened is irreversible, people cannot come back from death. But the king can teach his sons and grandchildren to love each other and spread it to every common people. If the minister assisting him can move him and turn his personal grief into great love for all the people in the world, he can achieve peace and prosperity. This is also a reminder to the king not to forget the brotherhood of life and death because of the power and status of the outside world. After all, life is also very short. Brothers will grow old and eventually die. What else is worth fighting for. At the same time, it is also a good example for people all over the world to be harmonious within the family and drive the good atmosphere of the whole society. The last poem is about entertaining friends. From noble kings to ordinary people, it is impossible to succeed without the help of friends. After success, king still maintain a good relationship with them. Naturally, king should entertain our friends to express our gratitude and never forget their help. This poem describes a lonely woodcutter cutting a tree. The sound of an axe frightened the birds in the tree. They flew to a higher tree to rest, and made a cry to inform their companions to leave quickly. That is to say, birds can do so, not to mention humans. How can we have no friends. People feelings should be stronger than those of ordinary small animals, and we should think of our friends. The next two paragraphs describe the happy scene of inviting friends to a big banquet. Prepared good wine, the bowls and plates on the table were arranged neatly, warmly entertained them and made them welcome. The *Governing Principles*

of Ancient China did not choose the part of the banquet, but chose the thought-provoking part to let the king experience the profound meaning. This reminds the king to remember the company of friends and the friendship of helping each other. Unlike the relationship between kings and ministers and between brothers, the relationship between friends depends more on friendship. Therefore, the king can entertain his friends to express gratitude, which is also a good example for people all over the world. In his early years, king Taizong Li Shiming joined the army and led the army for many years. He knew that it was not easy to establish a country and it would be more difficult to govern a country. He regretted that he read less. During his reign, he encouraged the ministers to give advice and criticize his decision-making mistakes. After he constantly absorbed the suggestions of his ministers, he finally achieved the zhenguan period. I selected several poems from the books of songs to analyze the way the monarch gets along with the people around him. To sum up, they are all reminding the king that it is difficult for a person to do things in a high position and still need the help of people around him. Remember the old friendship and kindness of ministers, brothers and friends, and entertain them to express their gratitude. This can not only maintain the harmony and stability of mutual relations, but also set a good example for people all over the world. Those who win the support of the people will win the world. I believe this approach will certainly achieve a great cause for thousands of years.