

The University of Wisconsin, Madison
College of Letters and Science

HISTORY 201 (001): The Historian's Craft
Spring 2013

Portraying China since Marco Polo

Lectures: MWF 1:20-2:10
Humanities 1217
Sections:
T 12:05 Soc Sci 6105
T 2:25 Humanities 2625

Professor: Dr. Shelly Chan
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Office Hour: W 2:30-3:30
and by appointment

TA: Mr. Billy Noseworthy
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OBJECTIVES

This course trains students in the historian's craft of research and writing and satisfies the Comm-B General Education Requirement. We will explore the history of encounters between China and the West through Western portrayals of Chinese society and culture. Beginning with the famous Venetian traveler Marco Polo (1254-1324), this course treats the portrayals as important artifacts of historical knowledge. We ask how, why, and for whom China has loomed large in Western imagination, as well as how such exchanges of information have shaped Chinese understanding of themselves and suggested a world connected in transformation.

The course content is organized by three broad themes: (1) Trade and Religion; (2) Industrial Revolution and Modernity; (3) Communism and Capitalism. These themes provide the relevant contexts and interconnections through which to understand the significance of China in global history.

To help students develop into young historians, this course instructs in the following areas:

- 1. Asking Questions:** Develop the habit of asking historical questions, including questions that may generate new directions for historical research.
- 2. Finding Sources:** Learn the logic of footnotes, bibliographies, search engines, libraries, and archives, and consult them to identify and locate source materials.
- 3. Evaluating Sources:** Determine the perspective, credibility, and utility of source materials.
- 4. Developing and Presenting an Argument:** Use sources appropriately to create, modify, and support tentative conclusions and new questions.

5. **Planning Further Research:** Draw upon preliminary research to develop a plan for further investigation.
6. **Communicating Findings Effectively:** Make formal and informal, written and oral presentations tailored to specific audiences.

READINGS

The following titles are required and available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

1. Robert B. Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-First Century*. Rowan & Littlefield, 2007.
2. Rebecca Karl, *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World*. Duke, 2010.
3. Dorothy Ko, *Every Step a Lotus: Shoes for Bound Feet*. California, 2001.
4. Mary Ann Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012.

Additional readings (marked with * as follows) are available via the Learn@UW course site.

SCHEDULE

Week 1

- W Jan 23 Introduction. Find a learning partner.
- F Jan 25 Maps, names, dynasties. Discuss how to take notes and ask historical questions. Assign extract from Marco Polo (primary source analysis 1 due Feb 4).
Rampolla, 1-9

Part I. Trade and Religion

Week 2

- M Jan 28 Mongols and the Yuan empire
Spence, 1-18*
- W Jan 30 Marco Polo. Discuss primary source assignment.
- F Feb 1 Controversy: Did Marco Polo really go to China? Discuss how to read for and construct a historical argument.
Igor de Rachewiltz, "Marco Polo Went to China"*
<https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/41883/1/Marcopolo.html>

◇ Sections: Get to know each other. Form small groups to compare lecture and reading notes. Discuss what primary sources, secondary sources, and bibliographies are.
Rampolla, 10-35.

Week 3

- M Feb 4 **Primary source analysis 1 due.** Memorial library visit 1 with Lisa Saywell, Room 231
Work in small groups. Find five sources about Marco Polo. Generate a collaborative bibliography for Friday's class.
- W Feb 6 Rise of the Ming dynasty; the Emperor and the Confucian literati
Marks, 21-42
- F Feb 8 Discuss how to read footnotes and mine them for research. Bring Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World* to class. Distribute research paper assignment.

◇ Sections: Discuss how to format a bibliography and what footnotes are.

Week 4

- M Feb 11 Voyages of Zheng He
Marks, 43-66
- W Feb 13 Memorial library visit 2 with Dianna Xu, Room 231
Come prepared to locate sources for two possible research paper topics.
- F Feb 15 Controversy: Robert Finlay, "How not to (Re)write World History: Gavin Menzies and the Chinese Discovery of America."* Discuss Finlay's thesis and how not to make a bad historical argument.

◇ Sections: Discuss how to develop research questions from your notes and find sources. Assign oral report on possible topics and sources, 5 minutes, in next week's sections. Rampolla, 77-97.

Week 5

- M Feb 18 Late Ming and the world; Chinoiserie
Marks, 43-66
- W Feb 20 Jesuit missionaries. Assign extracts from Matteo Ricci, Domingo Navarrete, and Bishop Berkeley.
Spence, 19-40*
- F Feb 22 Discuss primary source analysis 2 (comparative), due Mar. 1.

◇ Sections: **Oral reports on topics and sources. Discuss.**

Week 6

- M Feb 25 Wisconsin Historical Society and Library visit
Work in small groups. Find one textual and one visual representation of China (as country, people, or object). Write a short description about

the background of each source and suggest a list of possible questions to analyze it.

W Feb 27 **Quiz on Marks.** China in the Enlightenment. Assign extracts from Baron Montesquieu, Oliver Goldsmith, and Lord Macartney.
Marks, 67-121

F Mar 1 **Primary source analysis 2 due.** Discuss primary source assignment 3 (comparative), due Mar. 11.

◇ Sections: Discuss how to develop a research proposal and an annotated bibliography. Rampolla, 36-76.

Part II. Industrial Revolution and Modernity

Week 7

M Mar 4 Opium and tea
Marks, 123-154

W Mar 6 **Preliminary research proposal due.** “Opening” of China and the 1911 Revolution.
Marks, 155-197

F Mar 8 **Group presentations** on *Chinese Characteristics**

◇ Sections: Prepare a collaborative summary and critical analysis of the excerpts from Arthur Smith, *Chinese Characteristics*.* Give a 10-minute group presentation on Friday.

Week 8

M Mar 11 **Primary source analysis 3 due.** Family and women
Ko, first half

W Mar 13 Footbinding
Ko, second half

F Mar 15 Discuss how to analyze a visual source (photographs and objects).

◇ Sections: Discuss the book review assignment. Sign up to meet with Prof. Chan or Mr. Noseworthy next week.

Week 9

M Mar 18 Guest lecture by Judy Yang, “Threatening Imperialists: Image of Chinese Immigrants in Public Policy Debate before the Exclusion Era”

W Mar 20 **Book review of *Every Step a Lotus* due.** Individual meetings to discuss proposal revisions

F Mar 22 No Class. Prof. Chan at the Association for Asian Studies Meeting

◇ Sections: Write a collaborative summary of Ms. Yang's lecture.

Mar. 25-29 Spring Break. No class or sections.

Part III. Communism and Capitalism

Week 10

M Apr 1 **Final research proposal due.** The Nationalist government and WWII
Karl, 1-34

W Apr 3 Mao Zedong and the Communist Revolution
Karl, 35-72

F Apr 5 Discuss how to analyze political propaganda.

◇ Sections: Discuss how to write a documentary film review.

Week 11

M Apr 8 Film screening: "Morning Sun," part 1
Karl, 73-116

W Apr 10 Film, part 3
Karl, 139-184

F Apr 12 **Quiz on Karl.** Discuss film.

◇ Sections: Film, part 2
Karl, 117-138

Week 12

M Apr 15 **Film review of "Morning Sun" due.** Reforms and Deng Xiaoping.

W Apr 17 Tian'anmen Democracy Movement and Patriotic Education.
Poor, MA thesis, "Re-imagining the Past at the Beijing Olympics," 55-79.*

F Apr 19 Discuss Poor, MA thesis, entire.* Comment on argument, writing, and organization.

◇ Sections: **Oral reports on paper progress.**

Week 13

M Apr 22 Discuss how to write well and cite sources.
Rampolla, 98-149

W Apr 24 Reflect on history as a practice.

F Apr 26 **First draft due.** Discuss how to conduct peer review.

No sections. Work on your paper.

Week 14 (Apr. 29-May 1) Peer review and revising week.

No sections.

Week 15 (May 6-8) Student Conference. Final paper due on May 10.

No sections. There is no final exam in this course.

POLICIES AND GRADES

Professional Conduct: Treat the professor, TA, and each other with equal respect and courtesy in all in-person and email communications. Please address me by my professional title (i.e. Professor Chan, not “Miss” or “hey”). Notify me in advance if you must arrive late, leave early, or miss class. During class, use electronic devices only for course-related purposes. Avoid doing anything that may distract yourself and others. Because of the high volume of writing assignments in this course, no late submissions will be accepted.

Commitment to Excellence: Constant practice is the condition of success in any craft. Take charge of your learning and be each other’s partners in research and writing. Engage, collaborate, and always complete all assigned readings and other tasks before coming to a class, section, or group meeting.

Academic Honor and Integrity: Submit your original work with complete citation in the Turabian/Chicago Manual Style. Any failure to properly quote, cite, or paraphrase a source is a serious offence known as “plagiarism.” This includes those who do so unknowingly or unintentionally. Learn to avoid it (see Rampolla, 98-149).

Distribution and Deadlines:

Lecture attendance and participation	10%	ongoing
Section attendance and participation	10%	ongoing
2 Primary source analyses + 2 rewrites (1-2 pp. each)	20%	Feb. 4, Mar. 1 & Mar. 11
2 Reading quizzes	10%	Feb. 27 & Apr. 12
Book review (2-3 pp.)	10%	Mar. 20
Film review (2-3 pp.)	10%	Apr. 15
Research proposal (2 pp., preliminary and final)	10%	Mar. 6 & Apr. 1
Research paper (8-10 pp., draft and final)	20%	Apr. 26 & May 10

Course Grading Scale:

A	93-100%
AB	88-92%
B	83-87%
BC	78-82%

C	70-77%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

About Attendance and Participation:

This applies to all required preparations, discussions, and presentations, group or individual. Please speak with me in advance about any accommodations that you might need. Students who are absent from a lecture or a section for more than a combined total of three times without official documentation (such as a doctor's note) can expect their overall grades to be reduced by 5%. Those who attend all sessions but rarely participate in discussion may only receive a C.

About Primary Source Analyses and Rewrites:

Each piece accounts for 5%. All students must complete primary source analysis 1 but may choose to do comparative assignments 2 or 3 (note different due dates). Submit re-writes within one week of receiving the graded original. All re-writes must properly address suggestions for improvement.

About Research Proposal and Paper:

Students will research and write about a topic that falls under the three broad themes of the course: trade and religion; industrial revolution and modernity; or Communism and capitalism. The final product should draw from at least 4 secondary sources and 1 primary source. All students must participate in the drafting, revising, and presentation of their projects, from proposal to paper. Details will be announced on Feb. 8.