

History 225 Spring 2012

University of Wisconsin-Madison

MWF 2:25-3:15 pm Grainger 2180

Professor: Dr. Shelly Chan pchan4@wisc.edu; 608-263-1837; box 4015

Office Hours: W 11-12, F 1-2 and by appointment; 4120 Humanities

Chinese Migrations since 1500

This course introduces the long global history of Chinese migrations. We survey the spatial movements of Chinese people to Southeast Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America, as well as changes brought to China. We study the imagined communities of diaspora through cultural identity, national citizenship, queerness, heritage tourism, studying abroad, and transnational adoption. We also examine Chinese migration as a dynamic site of cultural production, exploring how it creates food culture, literature, architecture, and cinema. Students will gain a broad and innovative understanding of the roots and routes, as well as turmoil and opportunities of migratory lives.

Bringing together a diverse range of materials, this course considers migration in multiple and transnational perspectives, challenging national frameworks that reduce migration into an unwelcome source of conflicts. In addition to lectures, class discussion and film presentations form the core of course instruction.

TEXTS

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and on reserve at the College Library. Additional readings (marked with *) can be accessed at Learn@UW.

Philip Kuhn, *Chinese among Others: Emigration in Modern Times* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2009)

Lynn Pan, *Sons of the Yellow Emperor: A History of the Chinese Diaspora* (Kodansha International, 1994)

Jennifer 8. Lee, *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food* (Twelve, 2009)

SKY Lee, *Disappearing Moon Cafe: A Novel* (The Seal Press, 1990)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance & Participation 20%

Students must attend all class meetings and contribute to their activities. Please make sure you have finished and thought about the assigned readings before coming to class. Class announcements will be distributed periodically through email.

As part of the participation grade, a team of two students will lead discussion on designated days by offering the main points of the readings, a short thoughtful

commentary, and discussion questions. Each student may be asked to perform this role at least twice.

2. Midterm (Mar. 19) 20%
Study questions will be distributed in advance.
3. Short paper on film (3-5 pages, due Apr. 20) 20%
Discuss a central issue in one of the films screened in class and consider it in the context of lectures and readings. Suggested questions will be circulated.
4. Final paper (8-10 pages, due May 14) 40%
Research and write a paper related to course themes. You must have your topic pre-approved by the professor by submitting a research outline and bibliography (due Apr. 11). Report to class your research progress on May 2.

SCHEDULE

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|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Jan. 23 | M | Introduction |
| Jan. 25 | W | Native place and family
Kuhn, 1-54 |

Part I. Spatial Movements

Trading Outposts, 1500-1800

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|---------|---|--|
| Jan. 27 | F | European maritime expansion
Kuhn, 55-106 |
| Jan. 30 | M | Ming China and sea trade
Pan, 1-42 |
| Feb. 1 | W | Nanyang (Southeast Asia)
*Wang Gungwu, "A Short History of the Nanyang Chinese" |
| Feb. 3 | F | <u>Discussion: "Merchants without Empire"</u>
Kuhn, 107-152
*Wang Gungwu, "Merchants without Empire: The Hokkien Sojourning Communities" |

Empires and Nations, 1800-1945

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|--------|---|--|
| Feb. 6 | M | Qing China in decline
Pan, 43-57
Kuhn, 153-196 |
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- Feb. 8 W Coolies: Cuba
Pan, 59-83
- Feb. 10 F Gold miners and railroad builders: California and British Columbia
Pan, 84-152
Kuhn, 107-152
- Feb. 13 M Discussion: “The Yellow Peril”
Kuhn, 197-238
*Wang Gungwu, “The Sojourners’ Way”
- Feb. 15 W Republican China, 1911-1949
Kuhn, 239-282
- Feb. 17 F Socialists and Labor Activists: Europe
*Gregor Benton, “Chinese in the Russian Revolution and Civil War”
- Feb. 20 M Discussion: Migrant Internationalism
*Benton, “Cuba” and “The Spanish Civil War, 1936-39”
- Feb. 22 W Entrepreneurs: British empire in the east
Pan, 153-190
- Feb. 24 F “Slave girls” and sex workers
Pan, 191-204
- Feb. 27 M Domestics
*Marjorie Topley, “Marriage resistance in rural Kwantung”
- Feb. 29 W Left-behind wives: Emigrant south China
*Madeline Hsu, “Surviving the Gold Mountain Dream: Taishanese American families”
- Mar. 2 F Discussion: Gender in Motion
*Yuen-fong Woon, “Between South China and British Columbia: Life Trajectories of Chinese Women”
*Shelly Chan, “Rethinking the left-behind in Chinese migrations: A Case of Liberating wives in 1950s China”

Decolonization and Globalization, 1945 to the present

- Mar. 5 M "Overseas fifth column": Postwar Southeast Asia
Pan, 205-245
- Mar. 7 W Patriots or Enemies? Mao's China, 1949-1976
Kuhn, 283-320
- Mar. 9 F War Brides and Boat People: Vietnam
Pan, 275-315
- Mar. 12 M Cultural China: Singapore
Pan, 246-274
- Mar. 14 W Discussion: Flexible Citizens
Kuhn, 321-386
*Aiwa Ong, "On the Edge of Empires: Flexible Citizenship among
Chinese in Diaspora"
- Mar. 16 F No Class. Professor at the Association for Asian Studies Meeting.
- Mar. 19 M **Midterm**

Part II. Imagined Communities

- Mar. 21 W Huaqiao ("The Overseas Chinese")
*Prasenjit Duara, "Nationalists among Transnationals: Overseas
Chinese and the Idea of China, 1900-1911"
- Mar. 23 F Asian America
Film: *The Wedding Banquet* (dir. Ang Lee, 1993)
SKY Lee, *Disappearing Moon Cafe*, 1-76
- Mar. 26 M Film continued
Lee, *Disappearing Moon Cafe*, 77-162
- Mar. 28 W Queer diaspora
Film: *Happy Together* (dir. Wong Kar-Wai, 1997)
*Travis Kong, "Hong Kong migrant gay men in London"
- Mar. 30 F Discussion: The Making of a Minority

*Mark Chiang, "Coming Out into the Global System: Postmodern Patriarchies and Transnational Sexualities in *The Wedding Banquet*"
Lee, *Disappearing Moon Cafe*, 163-299

Mar. 31- Apr. 8 **Spring Break. No Class.**

Apr. 9 M City of Migrants: Hong Kong
Film: *Farewell China* (dir. Clara Law, 1990)
Pan, 357-379

Apr. 11 W Film continued
Submit Paper Outline and Bibliography

Apr. 13 F Transnational adoption
*Toby Alice Volkman, "Embodying Chinese Culture:
Transnational Adoption in North America"

Apr. 16 M Roots searching and heritage tourism
*Milan Lin-Rodrigo, "In Search of Lin Jia Zhuang"
*Brad Wong, "A Yellow American in China"

Apr. 18 W Studying abroad
*Vanessa Fong, "Choosing the Road Less Traveled: How and Why
Chinese Citizens Decide to Study Abroad"

Apr. 20 F Discussion: Roots and Routes
*Vanessa Fong, "When Migrants from the Same Hometown Meet"
and "Filial nationalism among Chinese teenagers with global identities"

Part III. Cultural Productions

Apr. 23 M Food Culture
Film: *Chinese Restaurants* (dir. Cheuk Kwan, 2003), excerpts.
Jennifer 8. Lee, *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, 1-106
Short Paper Due

Apr. 25 W Film continued
Lee, *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, 107-208

Apr. 27 F Discussion: Food and memory

Lee, *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, 209-309
Pan, 316-356

- Apr. 30 M UNESCO world heritage site: Kaiping, China
- May 2 W ***Research progress reports***
- May 4 F Martial arts cinema
Film: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (dir. Ang Lee, 2000)
- May 7 M Film continued
*Jennifer Jay, "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon: (Re)packaging Chinas and Selling the Hybridized Culture in an Age of Transnationalism"
- May 9 W Film continued
*Ken-fang Lee, "Far Away, So Close: Cultural Translation in Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*"
- May 11 F Discussion: Constructing "Chinese culture"

Final Paper Due on May 14

POLICIES

- If you need any accommodations related to your attendance or performance in this course, please always discuss with me in advance, not after.
- Do not use your cell phone or the internet while class is in session.
- If you miss a lecture, find another student who can share notes and announcements with you. I do not repeat course materials.
- Request for deadline extension or make-up exam may be accepted with a doctor's note. Late papers will be docked for 10% per day and rejected one week from original due date.
- All students are held to high standards of academic excellence and integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, meaning quoting or basing your ideas on the work of another person without proper citation, is a serious offence. All cases will be reported. Learn how to avoid it: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html
- Numerical grades are converted to letter grades in the following way:

90 and above	A	70-74	C
85-89	AB	60-69	D
80-84	B	Below 60	F
75-79	BC		