

**HISTORY 337: HISTORY OF LATE IMPERIAL CHINA.
UW-MADISON, SPRING SEMESTER 2014.**



Stele used for target practice in Cultural Revolution

Need for Accommodation

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, e.g., a religious holiday, disability, mahjong team, etc., please tell me during the first week so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Meeting Times and Locations:

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 a.m., Humanities Room 1641. There are no separate discussion sections.

Communication:

Professor: Joe Dennis.

Office: Humanities 4123

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., and by appointment.

Phone: 263-1853.

E-mail: dennis3@wisc.edu. Be aware that I generally check email a few times per day, but due to high volume cannot always respond quickly. Some days I cannot check at all. If something is pressing, ask me after class, in office hours, or call me.

TA: Sinae Hyun. Email: hyun2@wisc.edu. Office: 4266 Humanities.

Course description:

This is an upper division course on Chinese history during middle and later imperial China, arranged by topic. Topics addressed include environment; government and law; economy; maritime China; intellectual life, family, marriage, and sex; science, technology, and medicine. The class is small enough that we can focus on discussions of assigned readings, but these will be supplemented by lectures and analysis of primary sources. Reading assignments are usually one book chapter or article per class, although this varies. The single most important thing in this

class is to keep up on the reading. Course requirements include coming to class prepared for discussion, participating in discussion, taking short multiple-choice quizzes that are designed to be very easy if you did the reading, writing summaries and analyses of two course books, a comparison of parts of two books, several short assignments at the museum and library, and a final paper of 2100-2500 words. There are no exams.

Readings available in bookstore:

Dreyer, Edward L. *Zheng He: China and the Oceans in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433* (ZH). Pearson Longman (2006). ISBN-10: 0321084438, ISBN-13: 978-0321084439.
Bol, Peter. *Neo-Confucianism in History* (NCH). Harvard (2010). ISBN: 0674053249.
Brook, Timothy. *The Troubled Empire* (TE). Belknap (2013). ISBN:0674072537.
Marks, Robert. *China: Its Environment and History* (CEH). (2011). ISBN:1442212756.
Other readings will be on posted on Learn@UW or available electronically on JSTOR, etc.

Class Schedule:

W Jan 22 Introduction to class and classmates. Fill out student background sheets. Discuss course plan and what we mean by China and the imperial age.

F Jan 24 Basic geography and chronology of late imperial China. Lecture and in-class group exercises.

Unit 1: Environment.

M Jan 27 Quiz CEH 76-101. Discuss CEH 76-101.

W Jan 29 Quiz CEH 103-32. Discuss CEH 103-32.

F Jan 31 **Happy New Year!** Quiz CEH 132-61. Discuss CEH 132-61.

M Feb 3 Quiz CEH 162-93. Discuss CEH 162-93. 700-800 word summary and analysis of CEH due 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, in Dropbox on Learn@UW. If you would like to discuss your draft, contact Sinae to set up a time.

W Feb 5 Quiz CEH 193-222. Discuss CEH 193-222.

F Feb 7 Quiz CEH 223-49. Discuss CEH 223-49.

M Feb 10 Quiz CEH 249-63. Discuss CEH 249-63. By 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, post one question related to the class that you would like Professor Dennis to answer in class. Posts go on Learn@UW, communication, discussion, "Questions for Professor Dennis to Answer in Lecture." I will get through as many as I can over the next week.

Unit 2: Government

W Feb 12 CEH summary and analysis due. Lecture: Late Imperial Government.

F Feb 14 **Happy Valentine's day!** Quiz TE 1-49, Discuss TE 1-49.

M Feb 17 Quiz TE 1-49, Discuss TE 1-49. In-class work on provinces and major cities of Ming. **Comparison due Wednesday**, see assignment sheet.

W Feb 19 **By 5:00 a.m. today, post a 250-300 word comparison** of TE 50-78 to CEH's discussion of the same topics in chapters 4 and 5. Explain how Brook and Marks' sources, approaches, and conclusions are similar and different. We will discuss this in class.

F Feb 21 Quiz TE 79-105, Discuss TE 79-105. Examine the *Huangling bei* 皇陵碑 (imperial tomb stele for Zhu Yuanzhang's parents).

Unit 3: Economy

M Feb 24 Quiz TE 106-33, Discuss TE 106-33. Lecture: Agriculture, Mining and Manufacturing.

W Feb 26 Quiz TE 186-212, Discuss TE 186-212. Hand out museum assignment.

F Feb 28 Meet at Chazen museum to look at Ming porcelain.

Unit 4: Maritime China

M Mar 3 Quiz TE 186-212, Discuss TE 186-212. **Museum assignment due 11:59 p.m. in Dropbox on Learn@UW.**

W Mar 5 Hand out library day 1 assignment. Video, *1421: The Year China Discovered America*.

F Mar 7 Quiz ZH 1-134. Discuss ZH 1-134.

M Mar 10 Library day 1. **Post results** on Learn@UW by 5:00 p.m. See assignment sheet for details.

W Mar 12 No class. Meetings with Sinae Hyun to discuss paper ideas and sources. Before you leave for spring break, post one question related to the class that you would like Professor Dennis to answer in class. Posts go on Learn@UW, communication, discussion, "Questions for Professor Dennis to Answer in Lecture." I will answer them after break.

F Mar 14 Quiz ZH 135-204, Discuss ZH 135-204.

Sat. Mar 15 – Sun. Mar 23 **SPRING BREAK!**

Unit 5: Intellectual life

M Mar 24 Hand out library day 2 assignment. Quiz NCH 1-114, Discuss NCH 1-114.

W Mar 26 Library day 2. Post results on Learn@UW by 5:00 p.m.

F Mar 28 **NO CLASS.** Work on your paper in the library today. By midnight, post one paragraph on what you found on Learn@UW.

M Mar 31 Quiz NCH 115-52, Discuss NCH 115-52.

W Apr 2 Quiz NCH 153-93, Discuss NCH 153-93.

F Apr 4 Lecture: Civil Service Examinations.

M Apr 7 Quiz NCH 218-69, Discuss NCH 218-69. 700-800 word summary and analysis of NCH due by 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, in Dropbox on Learn@UW

Unit 6: Family, Marriage, Sex

W Apr 9 NCH summaries due. Lecture: Chinese Family.

F Apr 11 Quiz TE 136-60, Discuss TE 136-60.

M Apr 14 Quiz and discuss: Ebrey, "Women, Marriage, and the Family in Chinese History," (Learn@UW).

W Apr 16 Lecture: Sex in Imperial China.

F Apr 18 Quiz and discuss: *Jinpingmei* 金瓶梅 (Plum in the golden vase) (on Learn@UW).

M Apr 21 Quiz and discuss: Hinsch, Bret. *Passions of the Cut Sleeve: the Male Homosexual Tradition in China*.

W Apr 23 **NO CLASS.** Meetings with Sinae Hyun on papers.

Unit 7: Science, Technology, Medicine

F Apr 25 Quiz and discuss: Sivin, "Science and Medicine in Chinese History," Learn@UW.

M Apr 28 Quiz and discuss: Song/McKnight, *The Washing Away of Wrongs: Forensic Medicine in Thirteenth-century China*.

W Apr 30 Lecture: Chinese printing. Course evaluations.

Final Projects

F May 2 Draft of final paper due. Bring 3 copies to class for peer review. Put one in Dropbox on Learn@UW.

M May 5 Oral presentations.

W May 7 Oral presentations.

F May 9 Oral presentations. Last day of class! **Final version of paper due in Learn@UW “Final Paper” Dropbox by 11:59 p.m.**

NO FINAL EXAM.

Grades:

CEH summary and analysis	9%
Museum assignment	2%
NCH summary and analysis	9%
CEH/TE comparison	4%
Library day 1 assignment	3%
Library day 2 assignment	4%
Class participation	16%
Final paper draft	4%
Final paper	20%
Oral presentation	5%
Readings quizzes	24% (1% each)

Grading scale:

A=93-100

AB=88-92

B=83-87

BC=78-82

C=70-77

D=60-69

F=>60 (or 12 absences or more, even if one's final average exceeds 60).

There is no curve.

“Participation” means you are prepared, alert, and involved in discussions. This means that when you come to class you must have already read the assignment, thought about it, and noted highlights of what was said and what was not said.

I take attendance. If you are not physically or mentally present, you are not participating. That will hurt your grade. I have a “no fault” attendance policy which allows you to miss one week of class with no penalty. You do not need to explain why you are gone. Everyone gets sick, has another obligation, or just needs a day off periodically. Absences beyond 3 will result in a lowered class participation grade at the rate of 3 points per absence for numbers 4-6, and 5 points thereafter. If you miss 12 or more times, you will fail the course. Keep me apprised of anything that could significantly impair your studies.

You will have the opportunity to lead discussion during the semester and will be graded on this. I will decide the participation grade mainly on our impression of your overall contribution to discussion and class exercises.

I apply imperial Chinese theories of social control to grading. My framework recognizes both the coercive power of the law and the encouraging power of moral example. Poor grades may result from either transgressions or nescience.¹ Transgressions, such as failure to read an assignment, failure to carefully revise papers before turning them in, lazy thinking, etc., are dealt with using Legalist principles, “if the lord above severely punishes and rewards lightly, then it expresses that the ruler loves the people... By punishments eliminate punishments.”²

Nescience, however, is students’ natural state at the beginning of each course. It shall be approached with encouragement, assistance, and compassion (unless caused by transgressions). “We can master things we originally did not understand. We not only are capable of destroying the old world, we also can create a new world.” Chairman Mao, 1949.

Technological Distractions:

Being focused in class and having good manners are essential. Please turn off your cell phone at the start of class and do not use your computer for anything that is not course related. It is my policy to reduce violators’ grades by one point from their final average for each violation. Thus, for example, if your final average would have been 93, but I observed you texting six times during the semester, your grade would drop to an 87, moving you from an “A” to a “B.” If you are awaiting a heart transplant and need to have your phone on, let me know before class.

Paper Format:

Wherever I have specified the length of a paper, you are not to exceed the upper limit. For example, if the assigned length is 700-800 words, you are not to write beyond 800 words. A lean 800 beats a flabby 1000. Learn proper editing or you will be sentenced to life exile in a malarial region. If you write 1000 words, I will simply cross off the last 200, tell you that your paper stopped in mid-sentence and lacked a conclusion. Such papers never score well. Just revise it one more time, tighten up flabby phrasing, and cut useless and redundant statements.

Plagiarism:

Question: What’s the policy?

Answer: “The proverb says: Don’t insult a friend’s wife or bully his concubine. You’ve done both you impudent ape! Come here and let me have a whack at you!” - Ox Demon King to Monkey (Sun Wukong) in *Journey to the West*. Think of your assignments as your teacher’s beloved.

Question: What is plagiarism?

Answer: See the college’s policy or ask me before submitting your paper. If you ask me in advance whether you can present material in a certain way, it is harmonious education. If you just present another’s work without attribution, hoping you will not get caught, it will also be educational, however, the lesson learned will be that, indeed, the lot of sentient beings is to suffer.

Question: What will happen to me if I plagiarize?

¹ You will come across many new terms during this course. Grandma gave you that dictionary for a reason. When the term is not in your dictionary, which occurs often, check a bigger dictionary, such as OED, or ask me.

² Shang-chün shu chieh-ku ting-pen, Chu Shih-ch’e, 1966.

Answer: *Ling chi*, or “death by slicing,” a Chinese and Mongol punishment for heinous crimes in imperial times. In contrast to simple decapitation, *ling chi* extended the suffering and forced the condemned person to dishonor their parents by defiling their body. In addition, I may give you a failing grade for the course and the college may expel your remnant parts.

Prior to handing in your first assignment you must read and master the Writing Center’s help page on how to avoid plagiarism:

http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

Lateness:

I operate on a tight schedule. If you hand in an assignment late, you mess with my schedule. Remember the immutable law of Karma! Also, you will be docked 5 points per day late.

Handouts and Assignments:

If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting any handouts or assignments you missed. First check on Learn@UW. If nothing is there, check with someone from class or ask me. There is a class list on Learn@UW. The Master said: “Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful.”

Other Matters:

The University has many common sense policies that you are expected not to violate. If you fear your potential actions may be improper, ask me. For example, maintaining a dignified and respectful atmosphere is a responsibility that UW takes seriously. Sexual harassment is one form of disrespect that undermines our community, violates university policy, and could subject one to both civil and criminal liability.

The line between acceptable social interaction and deviance has been drawn and redrawn throughout history by almost every society. For our purposes, following *The Book of Heavenly Commandments*, commandments five through ten will ensure the appropriate class atmosphere (promulgated in 1852 during The Heavenly Kingdom of the Taipings).³ Commandment Seven states:

Do not indulge in wickedness or lewdness. In the world there are many men, all brothers; In the world there are many women, all sisters. For the sons and daughters of Heaven, the men have men’s quarters and the women have women’s quarters; they are not allowed to intermix... The casting of amorous glances, the harboring of lustful imaginings about others, the smoking of opium, and the singing of libidinous songs are all offenses against the Heavenly Commandment.

If you have questions or are having any problems, please contact me. Confucius said: “He was quick and eager to learn, he was not ashamed to seek advice.”

³ *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, p. 28.