



Xinyu 新喻, Jiangxi Confucian School Library, 2006

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 two weeks so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Communication:

Class: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m.-5:25 p.m.

---(Humanities 5245)

Professor: Joe Dennis.

Office: Humanities 5135

Office Hours: Thursdays, 11:00-11:50 and by appointment. Mailbox: 5006

E-mail: dennis3@wisc.edu

Course Description

This seminar is a variable-credit course, one to three credits, designed to introduce graduate students in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history, art history, literature, anthropology, sociology, political science, and other fields to key issues and debates in the history of Late Imperial China, to prepare graduate students in Chinese history to do original research, and to better understand how academia works. It does not assume extensive preparation in Chinese history, but welcomes those who do. Topics covered will depend in part on the enrolled students: We will all read overviews of the field and important works on topics such as cities and urbanization, development of commercial society, cultural change, family, social, and government organization, relations with Japan, Korea, Mongols, and Manchus (before 1800), education, ethnic and cultural identity in Ming and Qing, but because students have varying interests and needs, approximately one-half of each student's readings will be chosen by the student (in consultation with Professor Dennis) based on individual interest. Students who read foreign languages may select relevant readings in those languages.

Each week, we will spend about an hour discussing the scholarly literature and research tools, and then we will read and translate primary sources. Some documents will be selected to acquaint students with important categories of sources, while others will be based on the interests of enrolled students. This is designed to practice translation to help students get to the level needed for dissertation research. Those who cannot read Chinese can introduce a source in a language they do read, and then leave (if they wish).

Grading will be based on participation in class discussions, weekly posting of short reaction papers on the readings, and a final historiographic essay or research paper, depending on the needs of the particular student. For students taking the course for only one or two credits, separate arrangements will be made. Much of the work for this course will be done outside of class, and for those taking the class for three credits, I estimate the total time engaged in course-related activities to be approximately 135 hours over the course of the semester.

Readings

If you are a student of Chinese history or are doing a transnational project involving China, you should buy: Wilkinson, Endymion. *Chinese History: A New Manual, 5th edition* (2017). If you already have an earlier edition, that is OK. Wilkinson has a new expanded version that is supposed to be out from Harvard University Press this summer, so you might want to wait for it. He is stretching its coverage forward to the 1970s.

Other readings will be available on Canvas, through databases, or by borrowing from the library or Professor Dennis.

Schedule

January 27 Before class: if possible, please read the introduction to Lotze, *Translation of Empire*. Fill out the student data sheet. Please be sure to provide detailed information on your program and research interests. This will help me compile lists of readings and documents. Introduction to research guides and bibliographies on late imperial China.

February 3: Issues in Chinese history: Read *A Companion to Chinese History*, pages 1-168. Flip through Farmer, Edward. *Ming History: An Introductory Guide to Research* and read pages 1-30. Yuan Ming overview. Flip through Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A Manual*. Documents in class.

February 10: Miller, Ian. *Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China*. College Library has one copy of this and I have put a pdf of the pre-publication manuscript on Canvas (I have not yet found a pdf of the final version).

February 17: Brook, Timothy. Choose either *The Troubled Empire, Confusions of Pleasure*, or *The Chinese State in Ming Society* (available online from UW Library, JSTOR ebooks), or his most recent book, *Great State*, which our library does not yet have (Professor Dennis can lend it to someone), or *Praying for Power: Buddhism and the Formation of Gentry Society in Late-Ming China* (Memorial Library has a copy). Documents in class.

February 24: Bian, He. *Know Your Remedies: Pharmacy and Culture in Early Modern China*. This is available as an ebook through the UW Library. Documents in class. Flip through Hucker, *A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China*.

March 3: Fei, Siyen. *Negotiating Urban Space: Urbanization and Late Ming Nanjing*. Available through UW Library, Project Muse ebook. Documents in class.

March 10: Shin, Leo. *The Making of the Chinese State*. Documents in class.
Documents in class. For those who read Chinese, learn to use the Duxiu database.

Thursday, March 17: NO CLASS, Spring Break!

March 24 China's foreign relations: *Sacred Mandates: Asian International Relations since Chinggis Khan*. Edited by: Timothy Brook, Michael van Walt van Praag and Miek Boltjes. Documents in class. Pick book for March 31 from the stack Professor Dennis brings to class, or from electronic reserve and post on the readings.

March 31 Book history: Brokaw, Cynthia, "Book History in Premodern China, State of the Field." (Canvas). Pick a book on Chinese book history/print culture. **Signup for individual conferences with Professor Dennis.** Discuss historiography papers. Documents in class.

This week: Individual conferences with Professor Dennis in his office, 5135 Humanities. Consult with Professor Dennis about readings for the remainder of the course. If you forget your time, the signup with your times will be posted on Canvas.

April 7 Student-selected readings. Each person will have to introduce their book and relate it to other students' readings. Please carefully read everyone's posted papers in advance. Documents in class.

April 14 Student-selected readings. Each person will have to introduce their book and relate it to other students' readings. Please carefully read everyone's posted papers in advance. Documents in class.

April 21 Student-selected readings. Each person will have to introduce their book and relate it to other students' readings. Please carefully read everyone's posted papers in advance. Documents in class.

April 28 Student-selected readings. Each person will have to introduce their book and relate it to other students' readings. Please carefully read everyone's posted papers in advance. Documents in class.

May 5 We will meet at Ichiban's on Park Street for the final class. We will have a wrap-up discussion over lunch (Professor Dennis' treat).

Papers are due by May 8.