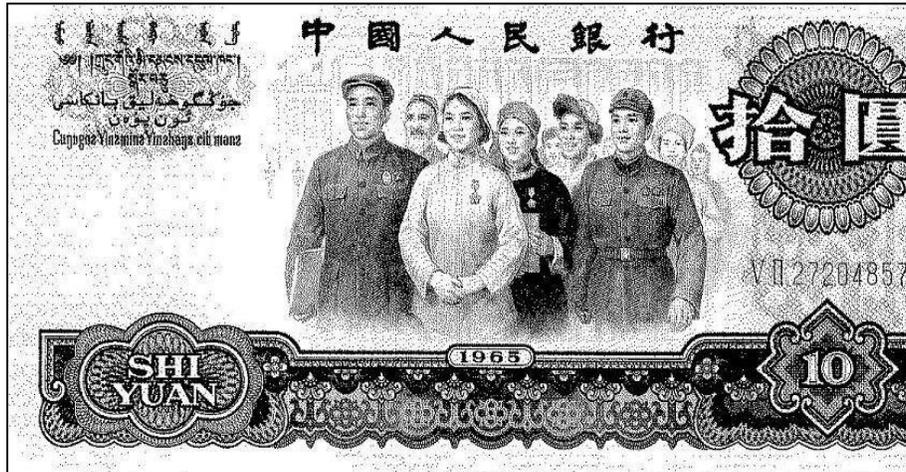


**History/East Asian Studies 336: Chinese Economic and Business History: From Silk to iPhones, spring semester, 2020. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 4 credits.**



Ten-yuan banknote with languages of “five nationalities,” Chinese, Mongol, Tibetan, Uighur, Zhuang.

### **Need for Accommodation**

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may require 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:**

Class Time: Tuesdays, 6:00-8:20 (with a break around 7:15-7:30), plus materials online.

Class Location: Humanities Room 1641

### **Communication:**

Professor: Joe Dennis. Office: Humanities 5135

Professor Dennis' Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:45-5:45, and by appointment.

Email: dennis3@wisc.edu. Email is the best way to get hold of me.

Office Phone: 263-1853. I am not in my office that much, so this phone number is not a reliable way to get hold of me.

Mailbox: 5006 (fifth floor Humanities mailboxes above the History Department Office).

Teaching Assistant: Aijie Shi

Office: 4260 Humanities.

Office Hours: 3:40-5:40 p.m.

Phone (in TA office): 890-3308

Email: ashi25@wisc.edu

Mailbox: 4111 (fourth floor Humanities mailboxes above the History Department Office).

**Course description:**

This is an intermediate-level, blended course (part in-person, part online) on Chinese economic and business history that covers both pre-modern and modern China. **The approach is historical; no prior knowledge of economics is required.** Topics addressed include: how people thought about property, labor, value, and money; the banking and financial systems, development of domestic and international markets and trade, major industries, the search for resources, agricultural economy, the connection of law and economy, organizations that affected the economy, systemic changes during the Republic and People's Republic, China's participation in international economic institutions, etc. Reading assignments are usually one or two book chapters or articles per week, although this varies. The most important things for being successful in this class are keeping up on the reading, attending lecture, and doing the online assignments. 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, taking two exams (not cumulative), doing a final paper of 2100-2400 words, and a few short assignments.

This course counts for either the Humanities or Social Science breadth requirement and is Honors Optional.

**Prerequisite:** Sophomore standing OR one high school AP history class, OR one college history, East Asian Studies, economics, or political science class.

This course has the graduate course attribute. Graduate students taking this course must obtain the instructor's approval, attend lectures, and reach an agreement with the instructor on a list of required supplementary readings, and alternative assignments.

**Credits:**

The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), which include regularly scheduled instructor/student meeting times, reading, writing, field trips, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The goal of this course is for students to develop an intellectual framework and background knowledge necessary for understanding the history of China's economy and business. In addition, as we go through the main course content, we will take time to work on the skills taught by the history major, and by the end of the course students' historical skills should be improved. These include:

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.

**No Chinese language skills are needed for this class**, but if you do read Chinese, you are free to use it in your final paper.

**Readings:** The following required textbook is available in the University Bookstore and from other sources. Additional readings will be available electronically on Canvas, or on reserve.

Von Glahn, Richard. *The Economic History of China from Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century*. Cambridge University Press, February, 2016.

Abbreviation used in the schedule below: “**VG**” = Von Glahn, Richard. *The Economic History of China*.

**Schedule:**

Classes will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and document and object analysis. **Please complete the assigned readings and other online materials before coming to class.** We will have frequent, short, easy (for those who did the reading) quizzes on the day’s reading. The schedule may be adjusted as the semester progresses.

**WEEK 1:**

**A. Tuesday Jan 21 in class:**

Introduction to the class.

Meet your classmates.

Lecture: Overview of Chinese geography, language, political organization, periodization of Chinese history.

Work in groups on China’s geography exercises.

Lecture: What do we mean by “economy” and is it a useful term when applied to pre-modern, non-Western societies?

**B. Do online before Jan 28 class:**

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 1.” (I suggest downloading the question sheet, taking notes on the questions as you read, and bring your sheet to class to refresh your memory when we discuss the reading in class.)

Read: VG, Chapter 1 “The Bronze Age Economy (1045 to 707 B.C.E.)”

Take “Week 1 Reading Quiz” (Canvas).

Graduate students: Read Von Glahn, “Current Scholarship on the Economic History of Premodern China,” pick three books, and five articles referred to therein (see Canvas for bibliography at the end of “A Companion to Chinese History”) for additional reading this semester. During the semester, write a one-page summary and analysis of each selected work.

**Week 2:**

**A. Tuesday Jan 28 in class:**

Lecture: The history of money and property in China.

Object analysis and discussion: Money.

**Happy New Year!** (January 25).

Lecture: The business of holidays and ritual events in Chinese history.

Object analysis and discussion: charms sold at Confucian temples to assist in passing the college entrance examination; mooncake molds; Buddhist items. Video clip on festivals.

Discuss: VG, Chapter 1 “The Bronze Age Economy (1045 to 707 B.C.E.)”

**B. Do online before Feb 4 class:**

Listen to online lecture: “Aristocracy, merchants, and structures of economic control.”

Take quiz on lecture.

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 2.”

Read: VG, Chapter 2, “From City-State to Autocratic Monarchy (707 to 250 B.C.E.)”

Take quiz on Chapter 2.

**WEEK 3:**

**A. Tuesday Feb 4 in class:**

Lecture: Government monopolies.

Document analysis and discussion: “The Iron and Salt Debates.”

Discuss: VG, Chapter 2, “From City-State to Autocratic Monarchy (707 to 250 B.C.E.)”

Lecture: The history of bureaucracy in China.

Document analysis and discussion: First Emperor Qin Shihuang’s decree on weights and measures.

**B. Do online before Feb 11 class.**

Listen to online lecture: The Silk Road economy.

Take quiz on lecture.

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 3.”

Read: VG, Chapter 3, “Economic Foundations of the Universal Empire (250 to 81 B.C.E.)”

Take quiz on Chapter 3.

**WEEK 4:**

**A. Tuesday Feb 11 in class:**

Lecture: Labor in pre-modern China.

Document analysis and discussion. Hereditary occupational categories.

Discuss: VG, Chapter 3, “Economic Foundations of the Universal Empire (250 to 81 B.C.E.)”

Lecture: Taxation in pre-modern China.

Document analysis and discussion: Fish- scale register, residential registration document, tax payment receipt.

**B. Do online before Feb 18 class:**

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 4 and 5.”

Read: VG, Chapter 4, “Magnate Society and the Estate Economy (81 B.C.E. to 485 C.E.)” and VG, Chapter 5, “The Chinese-Nomad Synthesis and the Reunification of the Empire (485 to 755).”

Take quizzes on chapters 4 and 5.

Listen to online lecture: “The use of contracts in daily life.”

**WEEK 5:****A. Tuesday Feb 18 in class:**

Document analysis and discussion: Contracts from the Dunhuang Library Cave. Marriage, labor, and mortgage contracts from Huizhou, Anhui; tomb contracts.

Discuss how to get started on your final papers.

Lecture: The development of transportation and communication infrastructure.

Document analysis and discussion: Building the Grand Canal.

**B. Do online before Feb 25 class:**

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapters 6 and 7.”

Read: VG, Chapter 6, “Economic Transformation in the Tang-Song Transition (755 to 1127).”

Read: VG, Chapter 7, “The Heyday of the Jiangnan Economy (1127 to 1550).”

Take quizzes on chapters 6 and 7.

Listen to the online lecture: “The agricultural economy of pre-modern China.”

**WEEK 6:****A. Tuesday Feb 25 in class:**

Chazen Musuem trip: We will meet at 6:00 in the porcelain section of the Chazen Museum (see Museum Assignment handout for details). When we are done, we will go back to the classroom in Humanities to continue class.

Lecture: Major industries of pre-modern China: porcelain, silk, and mining.

Discuss: Chapters 6 and 7.

**B. Do online before March 3 class:**

Listen online to lecture: “The early-modern market economy and overseas trade.”

Read excerpts from Ma Huan’s diary documenting Zheng He’s fifteenth-century voyages to Africa.

Take quiz on Ma Huan’s diary reading.

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 8.”

Read: VG, Chapter 8, “The Maturation of the Market Economy (1550 to 1800).”

**WEEK 7:****A. Tuesday March 3 in class:**

Review for first examination (6:00-6:30 p.m.).

**First examination:** 6:30-7:20, followed by a 10-minute break.

Lecture: Law and the economy in Late Imperial China.

**B. Do online before March 10 class:**

Read: Discussion questions for “Chinese publishing history.”

Read: “Chinese publishing history.”

Take quiz on reading.

**WEEK 8:****A. Tuesday March 10 in class:**

Lecture: “History of the Chinese publishing industry and media.”

Object analysis: Wooden printing blocks and block-printed books. Lithographic and typeset books, periodicals. New media.

Section: Discuss sources for papers.

**B. Do online before March 24 class:**

Read: Discussion questions for VG, Chapter 9, “Domestic Crises and Global Challenges: Restructuring the Imperial Economy (1800 to 1900).”

Read: VG, Chapter 9, “Domestic Crises and Global Challenges: Restructuring the Imperial Economy (1800 to 1900).”

Take quiz on Chapter 9.

Read discussion questions for Kinzley, Judd. “The Spatial Legacy of Informal Empire.”

Read: Kinzley, Judd. “The Spatial Legacy of Informal Empire: Oil, the Soviet Union, and the Contours of Economic Development in China’s Far West.” *Twentieth-Century China*, October, 2015, Vol.40 (3), pp. 220-237.

Take quiz on Kinzley reading.

**WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK! Tuesday Mar 17 NO CLASS**

**WEEK 10:**

**A. Tuesday March 24 in class:**

Discuss VG Chapter 9 and Kinzley article.

Lecture: Development of the banking industry and financial instruments.

Document analysis and discussion: Letter of credit. Pawn contract.

Lecture: Industrialization and the search for resources.

**B. Do online before March 31 class:**

Listen to online lecture: “Overview of issues in modern Chinese economic history.”

Read: Discussion questions for “Marxism, a brief introduction” and “Report from Xunwu.”

Read: “Marxism, a brief introduction” and “Report from Xunwu.”

Take quiz on “Marxism, a brief introduction” and “Report from Xunwu.”

Graduate students: Read: Brandt-Ma-Rawski, “From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History Behind China’s Economic Boom” *Journal of Economic Literature* v52 no1 (2014): 80-123.

**WEEK 11:**

**A. Tuesday Mar 31 in class:**

Final paper proposals due. Bring three copies to discuss in small groups.

Lecture: Economic theories and practices of the communist revolution.

Discuss: “Marxism, a brief introduction” and “Report from Xunwu.”

Document analysis and discussion: Economic writings of Mao.

**B. Do online before April 7 class:**

Listen to online lecture: “Economic changes in 1950s and early 1960s.”

Read discussion questions for: “Great Leap Forward.”

Read: “Great Leap Forward.”

Take quiz on “Great Leap Forward.”

**WEEK 12:****A. Tuesday April 7 in class:**

Discuss: “Great Leap Forward.”

Lecture: “The Cultural Revolution and its economic aftermath.”

Lecture: “Educational change and economic development.”

Document analysis and discussion: “The Four Modernizations.”

**B. Do online before April 14 class:**

Listen to online lecture: “Population and economy.”

Do: Object analysis exercise: Family planning posters.

Read discussion questions for “Family planning policy.”

Read: “Family planning policy.”

Take quiz on “Family planning policy.”

Prepare sources for your final paper to present to your classmates on April 14.

**WEEK 13:****A. Tuesday April 14 in class:**

Lecture: Post-1978 “Opening and Reform.”

Document analysis and discussion: “China’s Socialist Market Economy.”

Present sources for papers to classmates in small groups. Do review sheets.

**B. Do online before April 21 class:**

Read discussion questions for: Wong and Bird. “China’s Fiscal System: A Work in Progress.” In *China’s Great Economic Transformation*, pp. 429–66.

Read: Wong and Bird. “China’s Fiscal System: A Work in Progress.” In *China’s Great Economic Transformation*, pp. 429–66.

Take quiz on Wong and Bird reading.

**WEEK 14:**

**A. Tuesday Apr 21 in class:**

Lecture: “Post-1978 legal change.”

Lecture: “China’s and world trade.”

Document analysis and discussion: Excerpts of “World Trade Organization, Accession of the People’s Republic of China.”

Section: **Final paper drafts due.** Bring three copies for in-class peer review.

**B. Do online before April 28 class:**

Listen to online lecture: “Development of car culture, tourism, and a consumer economy.”

Do: Object analysis exercise: “Car advertisements.”

Review for exam.

**WEEK 15:**

**A. Tuesday Apr 28 in class:**

Last day of class. Discussion: China’s economic prospects and significance in the world economy.

Last chance for questions on papers.

Course evaluations.

Take Second Examination (50 minutes, not cumulative).

**Friday May 1 online: Final papers due** 11:59 p.m. in Canvas, Assignments folder.

**Grades:**

20% First exam

22% Second exam

20% Final paper

3% Museum Assignment

15% Class participation (includes attendance, discussion, peer reviews, etc.)

20% Quizzes

**Mandatory attendance at an outside history or Asian studies lecture (including East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia). You must attend at least one to pass the course! I will circulate notices of talks when I notice them. You get one extra credit point towards your final grade for each talk you attend and for which you do a short (one paragraph) write-up, up to a maximum of five extra credit points. Attending extra credit talks can raise your grade, so try to attend if you are able.**

## Grading Scale:

93 or better = A

88-92.999=AB

83-87.999=B

78-82.999=BC

70-77.999=C

60-69.999=D

&gt;60.0 =F

To do well in “class participation” you need to be prepared, alert, and involved in discussions and work diligently on the in-class exercises. Thus, 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. If you are not physically or mentally present, you are not participating. That will hurt your grade. Because everyone has other things to do, gets sick, has an out-of-town sporting event, or just needs a day off, you may miss three regular classes without penalty. After that, it affects your grade. **If you miss four or more classes, you will fail the course.** If you come in late, be sure to sign the attendance sheet. If you must be absent, call or e-mail me in advance. Keep me apprised of anything that could significantly impair your studies.

You will have the opportunity to lead discussion. The quality of your discussion questions and leadership in class are part of the grade. The class participation grade may also include various minor assignments.

**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, if, for example, your final average would have been 93, but the TA or 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.

**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 University'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?

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, the University will take action, such as expelling your remnant parts.

**Prior to handing in your paper draft you must read the following discussion of plagiarism:**  
[http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism\\_defining.htm](http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm)

#### **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 made. Ask me or check with someone from class. We will make a class list on the first day. The Master said: "Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful."

#### **Other:**

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."