
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:
Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15 360 Science Hall
Sections:
   Discussion 301: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:20 p.m., 2251 Humanities
   Discussion 302: Tuesdays, 4:35-5:25 p.m., 2101 Humanities
   Discussion 304: Wednesdays, 9:55-10:45 a.m., 2131 Humanities

Communication:
Professor: Joe Dennis. Office: Humanities 5135
Professor Dennis’ Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:20, 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 and do not check it for messages, 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: Mr. Lin, ylin385@wisc.edu
Office: 4268 Humanities.
Office Hours: Mr. Lin will tell you.
Mailbox: 5066 (fifth floor Humanities mailboxes above the History Department Office).
Course description:
This is an intermediate-level course 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 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 (including notes, bibliography, and title), and a few short assignments.

This course counts for either the Humanities or Social Science breadth requirement and is Honors Optional. If you want to take it for Honors, consult with Professor Dennis early in the semester.

No Chinese language skills are needed for this class, but if you do read Chinese, or any other foreign languages, you are free to use foreign-language sources in your final paper (but the paper must be written in English).

Graduate Students: This course can be taken for graduate credit. Graduate students must reach an agreement with the instructor on a list of required supplementary readings, and alternative assignments.

Credits:
This is a four-credit course. The credit standard is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities, which include regularly scheduled instructor/student meeting times, reading, writing, field trips, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

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.


This book will be referred to in the schedule below by the abbreviation “VG.”

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 week’s readings. The schedule may be adjusted as the semester progresses.

WEEK 1:
A. Tuesday, Jan 24:

Introduction to the class.

Meet your classmates.

Lecture: Overview of Chinese geography. Happy Spring Festival! 迎春接福，恭喜發財！

B. Section (Tuesday or Wednesday): Work in groups on geography exercises. Get to know your classmates.

C. Thursday, January 26.

Lecture: What do we mean by “economy” and is it a useful term when applied to pre-modern, non-Western societies? Overview of Chinese language, political organization, periodization of Chinese history.

D. Do before Jan 31 lecture class:

Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 1.” I suggest you download the question sheet, take notes on the questions as you read, bring your sheet to lecture to refresh your memory before the quiz, and take it to section to help in discussion.

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

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 31 Lecture:

Quiz on Von Glahn Chapter 1.

Lecture: The history of money and property in China.

Object analysis and discussion: Money.

B. Section: Discuss VG, Chapter 1 “The Bronze Age Economy (1045 to 707 B.C.E.)” and the business of holidays in China.

C. Thursday, February 2 Lecture:

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.

D. Do before Feb 7 class:

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

WEEK 3:

A. Tuesday February 7 Lecture:
   
   Take quiz on Chapter 2.

   Lecture: “Aristocracy, merchants, and structures of economic control.”

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

C. Thursday, February 9 Lecture:

   Lecture: The history of bureaucracy and government monopolies in China.

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

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

D. Do before Feb 14 class.

   Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 3.”

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

WEEK 4:

A. Tuesday, February 14 Lecture:

   Quiz on VG, Chapter 3

   Lecture: Labor in pre-modern China. The Silk Road economy.

   Document analysis and discussion. Hereditary occupational categories.

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

Extra Credit Talk: Wednesday, February 15, 4:00 p.m. Ingraham 206. Professor Staci Kent, Boston College.

C. Thursday February 16 Lecture:

   Lecture: Taxation in pre-modern China.

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

D. Do before February 21 lecture:
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).”

WEEK 5:

A. Tuesday, February 21 Lecture:

Take quizzes on chapters 4 and 5.

Lecture: “The use of contracts in daily life.”

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

Hand out Final Paper Assignment. Discuss how to get started on your final papers.

B. Section: Discuss VG, Chapter 4-5.

C. Thursday, February 23 Lecture:

Lecture: The development of transportation and communication infrastructure.

Document analysis and discussion: Building the Grand Canal.

D. Do before February 28 lecture:

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).”

WEEK 6:

A. Tuesday Feb 28 Lecture:

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

B. Section: Discuss: VG, Chapters 6 and 7.

C. Thursday, March 2 Lecture:

Chazen Museum trip: We will meet in the Chazen Museum (see Museum Assignment handout for details).

D. Do before March 7 lecture:

Read excerpts from Ma Huan’s diary documenting Zheng He’s fifteenth-century voyages to Africa.
Read: “Discussion questions for Chapter 8.”

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

WEEK 7:

A. Tuesday, March 7 Lecture:

Lecture: Early modern overseas Trade. Discuss Ma Huan’s diary and VG, Chapter 8.

B. Section: Review for first examination.

C. Thursday, March 9 Lecture: First (midterm) examination.

D. Do before March 21 class (Spring Break next week):

Read: Discussion questions for “Chinese publishing history.”

Read: “Chinese publishing history.”

SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-19, NO CLASS!

WEEK 8:

A. Tuesday, March 21 Lecture:

Quiz on “Chinese publishing history.”

Lecture: “History of the Chinese publishing industry and media.” Class will end at 11:45 so that people can go to Maura Dykstra’s talk at the Law School if they want (see below).


Extra Credit Talk: Professor Maura Dykstra (Yale University), “Uncertainty in the Empire of Routine: The Unexpected Administrative Revolution of the 18th Century Qing State. Law School, Lubar Commons (Room 7200).

B. Section: Discuss sources for papers.

C. Thursday, March 23 Lecture:

Brief Recap of Maura Dykstra’s talk.

Lecture: Law and the economy in Late Imperial China.

D. Do before March 28 lecture:

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).”

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


WEEK 9:

A. Tuesday, March 28 Lecture:

Quiz on VG, Chapter 9 and Kinzley.

Lecture: Development of the banking industry and financial instruments.


B. Section: Discuss VG Chapter 9 and Kinzley article.

C. Thursday, March 30 Lecture:

Lecture: Industrialization and the search for resources.

D. Do before April 4 lecture:

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

Read: “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 10:

A. Tuesday, April 4 Lecture:

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

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

Lecture: “Overview of issues in modern Chinese economic history.”

Extra Credit Talk: Kaiser Kuo (The Sinica Podcast). 4:00 p.m., Plenary Room, 1310 Grainger Hall.

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

C. Thursday, April 6 Lecture:
Lecture: Economic theories and practices of the communist revolution.

D. Do before April 11 lecture:

Read discussion questions for: “Great Leap Forward.”

Read: “Great Leap Forward.”

WEEK 11:

A. Tuesday, April 11 Lecture:

Quiz on “Great Leap Forward.”

Lecture: “China’s economy in the 1950s-1970s.”

Document analysis and discussion: Economic writings of Mao.

B. Discuss: “Great Leap Forward.”

C. Thursday, April 13 Lecture:

Lecture: “Educational change and economic development.”

Document analysis and discussion: “The Four Modernizations.”

D. Do before April 18 lecture:

Read discussion questions for “Family planning policy.”

Read: “Family planning policy.”

Prepare sources for your final paper to present to your classmates on April 20. See assignment sheet for details.

WEEK 12:

A. Tuesday, April 18 Lecture:

Quiz on “Family planning policy.”

Lecture: “Population and economy.”

Object analysis exercise: Family planning posters.

Extra Credit Talk: Tuesday, April 18, 4:00 p.m. Ingraham 206. Professor Yu Xin (UW-Milwaukee), “How to Make a Genealogy in Late Imperial China: Rethinking Book Culture in Rural Society.”

B. Section. Discuss “Family planning policy.”

C. Thursday, April 20 Lecture:
Presentations of sources for final paper. Discussion of them.

D. Do before April 25 lecture:


WEEK 13:

A. Tuesday, April 25 Lecture:

Quiz on Wong and Bird reading.


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

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

C. Thursday, April 27 Lecture:

Lecture: “Post-1978 legal change.”

Lecture: “China’s and world trade.”


D. Do before May 2 lecture:

Work on your final paper and reviewing for the exam.

WEEK 14:

A. Tuesday, May 2 Lecture:

Lecture: “Development of car culture, tourism, and a consumer economy.”

Object analysis exercise: “Car advertisements.”

Discussion: China’s economic prospects and significance in the world economy.

B. Section: Review for second examination. Course evaluations.

C. Thursday, May 4 Lecture: Last day of class!

Take Second Examination (not cumulative).
Friday May 5: Final papers due 11:59 p.m. in Canvas, submit from “Assignments” tab.

Grades:
20% First exam
22% Second exam
20% Final paper
3% Museum Assignment
15% Class participation (includes attendance, discussion, peer reviews, etc.)
20% Quizzes

Extra Credit: You get one extra credit point towards your final grade for each extra credit talk you attend and for which you do a one paragraph write-up (email them to Professor Dennis), up to a maximum of five extra credit points. Attending extra credit talks can raise your grade, so try to attend some 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
>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 seven 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.

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

**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.”

**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.

**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.”