

HIEA 164/264: LATE IMPERIAL CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY:

THE MING DYNASTY (1368-1644)

W 12-2:50

HSS 3086

Dr. S. Schneewind

Phone: (858) 822-0814

Office: HSS 3062

Office hours: Wednesday 3-4:30 and by appointment

Mailbox: HSS 5012

E-mail: sschneewind@ucsd.edu

The Ming dynasty coincides with what is called “early modern” Europe, encompassing the Renaissance, the age of discovery, and the Reformation. For a long time, the Ming was seen mainly as the reverse of a changing, dynamic, outward-looking Europe. It was seen as the high point of Chinese autocracy, an inward-looking age of intellectual and technological stagnation. But in the last few years, scholars have complicated this vision of the Ming. We will read engaging scholarship on the period, in conjunction with primary sources the author used, so that we can think about how historians come up with questions and how they answer them. Class work includes discussion, weekly e-posts, and a final essay based on a secondary sources and primary sources in translation. I will help you choose primary sources related to your interests and introduce you to research resources.

Readings: (Some are in the campus bookstore; others* I will sell you directly.)

Sarah Schneewind, *A Tale of Two Melons: Emperor and Subject in Ming China*

Shih-shan Henry Tsai, *Perpetual Happiness: The Ming Emperor Yongle*

David Robinson, *Bandits, Eunuchs and the Son of Heaven*

*Kenneth Hammond, guest editor, *Ming Studies* 53: Special issue on Wang Shizhen

Dorothy Ko, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers*

*Ina Asim, “Colorful Lanterns at Shangyuan” – CD-Rom.

Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources: A Guide for Students*.

Handouts – there may be xerox fees for some.

Requirements:

- Read the assignment, take notes, and bring the reading and your notes to class.
- Check WebCT frequently for assignments, announcements, etc.
- Weekly e-post on reading, one solid paragraph, by 10:00 Wednesday, 20%
- Attendance and active, informed class participation, 30%
- Final paper, 15 – 20 pages, and assignments leading up to it – 50%

E-posts:

The postings are to develop discussion. They can include both questions and comments. To earn full credit (2 points), post on time and show that you have done the reading and thought about it, especially in connection with earlier class material and discussion. If another student has already said what you wanted to say, respond to or extend his or her comment, showing your reading and thought. A late post before class, or one that only summarizes, may earn 1 point. A post after class or that does not show you have read the assignment may earn ½ point if it makes a valuable contribution to the e-discussion.

Week One: Introduction

Zhu Yuanzhang, “In Praise of Auspicious Melons” (handout)

Week Two: A Story, and an Overview of Ming Society

Library information session.

Sarah Schneewind, *A Tale of Two Melons: Emperor and Subject in Ming China*

Week Three: The Yongle Emperor – Primary Sources

Zhu Yuanzhang, “The August Ming Ancestral Instruction” (handout)

Week Four: The Yongle Emperor – Secondary Source

Shih-shan Henry Tsai, *Perpetual Happiness: The Ming Emperor Yongle*

→One paragraph description of final paper primary sources due.

Week Five: Mid-Ming Banditry and Rebellion – Primary Source

“A Record of Example to Those Who Follow” (handout)

Gordon Harvey, *Writing With Sources*

Week Six: Mid-Ming Banditry and Rebellion – Secondary Source

David Robinson, *Bandits, Eunuchs and the Son of Heaven*

Week Seven: Four Views of Wang Shizhen

Ming Studies 53, first 3 articles

Ann Waltner, “T’an-yang-tzu and Wang Shih-chen: Visionary and Bureaucrat in the Late Ming,” *Late Imperial China* 8.1 (1987): 105-133 (handout)

→Outline or preparatory material for final paper due.

Week Eight: “Social and Private Histories”

Dorothy Ko, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers*, pp. 1-113

Yang Jisheng, trans. Bevely Bossler, “Final Instructions,” in *Under Confucian Eyes*, ed.

Susan Mann and Yu-yin Cheng, 122-129 (handout)

Week Nine: “Womanhood”

Dorothy Ko, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers*, pp. 115-176

“Colorful Lanterns at Shangyuan” – CD-Rom.

→Rough draft of final paper due.

Week Ten: “Women’s Culture”

Dorothy Ko, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers*, pp. 179-296

→Short reports on papers.

→ Final version of paper due in finals week.