

HIEA 129: Faces of the Chinese Past

Spring 2011

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2:00-2:50, in Peterson 104

Professor Schneewind

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Office hours, in H&SS 3062, MW 3-4 and by appointment

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The course centers on ten individuals from across Chinese history. We will think about how they fill out or complicate our understanding of their historical context; how experiences varied by time, rank, and gender; what dilemmas they faced and how they dealt with them; what the individuals shared; and other questions. Sources vary too, including biography and autobiography; imagined/collage personal accounts of Shang and Qing rulers; a son's epitaph for his father; Song anecdotes reworked into Ming fiction; and others. The course requires reading, writing, class participation, and independent thought. The amount of reading varies: plan ahead.

Required Reading, at the campus bookstore (but perhaps cheaper from Amazon, etc.):

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*

Sima Qian, *The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records*

N. Harry Rothschild, *Wu Zhao: China's Only Woman Emperor*

Jonathan Spence, *Emperor of China: Self-Portrait of K'ang-hsi*

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*

Ning Lao Taitai and Ida Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of a Chinese Working Woman*

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

The coursepack has all other readings. Contact them at www.universityreaders.com.

Course Requirements:

- If you need help or have questions, contact the professor *immediately*. Office hours are for you, so come talk to me even if you do not have a specific question.
- Read the Ropp pages before Monday's class and the rest before Wednesday's class.
- Attend every class and take notes by hand. If you must miss class, get the notes from a classmate. Arrive on time and participate in discussion. No electronics in class.
- Check WebCT for paper prompts and format, websites, etc. and to submit papers through Turnitin. For help: Academic Computing and Media Services in AP & M 1313, 8:30-4:00; phone 858-534-3227; email acs-help@ucsd.edu.
- Your grade will be based on four papers; any quizzes; active, informed class participation; and the take-home final (final paper) (about 30%).
- Follow the Policy on Academic Integrity; see specifics for this class on WebCT.
- University policy is that to pass with the P/NP option, you must earn a C, or 70%.
- The syllabus may change.

Week One: A Shang Queen

Memorize the dates of the periods of Chinese history on the chronology on WebCT.

Ropp, pp. 1-9

Minna Haapanen, "The Royal Consort Hao of the Shang"

Oracle bone inscriptions

1-page (250 words) paper due Friday. See WebCT for prompt.

Week Two: The First Teacher

Ropp, pp. 9 -19

Wills, “Confucius”

The Analects, Book Four, new translation

1-page (250 words) paper due Friday if you skipped Week One. See WebCT.

Week Three: The First Emperor of Qin

Ropp, pp. 20-49

Sima Qian, *The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records (Shi ji)*. Read pp. vii-xxxiv and 61-82, and two of chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, or 8, or pp. 82-94.

2-page (500 words) paper due Friday. See WebCT for prompt.

Week Four: The Woman Emperor of Tang

Ropp, pp. 50-66

N. Harry Rothschild, *Wu Zhao: China's Only Woman Emperor*

2-page (500 words) paper due Friday unless you wrote Week Three. See WebCT.

Week Five: A Central Official of Song

Ropp, pp. 67-84

Song-era anecdotes about Wang Anshi

Feng Menglong (d. 1645), “In the Hall ‘Half-way up the Hill,’ the Stubborn One Dies of Grief.” Optional: “Three Times Wang Anshi Tries to Baffle Academician Su”

3-page (750 words) paper due Friday. See WebCT for prompt.

Week Six: A Local Official of Ming

Ropp, pp. 85-95

Fang Xiaoru (d. 1402), “Account of Conduct of My Late Father [Fang Keqin]”

“Fang Keqin,” in Zhang Tingyu, et al., eds., *Official History of the Ming* [Mingshi]

3-page (750 words) paper due Friday unless you wrote in Week Five. See WebCT.

Week Seven: An Emperor of Early Qing

Ropp, pp. 95-101

The Kangxi Emperor and Jonathan Spence, *Emperor of China*

4-page (1000 words) paper due Friday. See WebCT for prompt.

Week Eight: A Poor Gentryman of the Middle Qing

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*

4-page (1000 words) paper due Friday unless you wrote Week Seven. See WebCT.

Week Nine: A late-Qing Working Woman

Ropp, pp. 102-118

Ning Lao Taitai and Ida Pruitt, *Daughter of Han*, first half

Think about your final paper. See WebCT for prompt. Come talk to me about it!

Week Ten: An Artist of the People's Republic

Ropp, pp. 119-155

Finish *Daughter of Han*

Film: Shui-bo Wang, “Sunrise over Tiananmen Square”

Submit a plan for your final paper (final exam), which will be 10 pages.