

HIGR 164/264
Seminar in Late Imperial Chinese History
Spring 2013

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Friday, 1:30-4:20pm HSS 4025

Office: HSS 3044
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This course explores the history of late imperial China (14th-19th centuries) through intense reading and discussion of secondary (and some primary) literature. We will examine closely various aspects of late imperial history, including governance, commerce, culture, women and gender, and the family and kinship system. The course aims to introduce major issues in the field and help students develop skills of reading and interpreting sources.

Requirements vary for graduate students and undergraduate students (see below). To make this course a valuable learning experience, it is crucial that all students be fully prepared before coming to class meetings and participate actively in the discussions.

Readings:

Patricia Buckley Ebrey. *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Huang Ray. *1587, A Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.

Brook, Timothy. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Clunas, Craig. *Empire of great brightness: visual and material cultures of Ming China, 1368-1644*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007

Kuhn, Philip A. *Soulstealers: The Chinese Sorcery Scare of 1768*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990.

*Elman, Benjamin. *From Philosophy to Philology: Intellectual and Social Aspects of Change in Late Imperial China*. Cambridge, Mass.: Council on East Asian Studies Harvard University, 1984. (For graduate students only)

Szonyi, Michael. *Practicing Kinship: Lineage & Descent in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Susan Mann. *The Talented Women of the Zhang Family*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.

Requirements:

- (1) Regular attendance and active participation in all discussions. 35%
- (2) Lead discussion for one week of your choosing. Your role is to define major themes/questions for discussion and to guide a well-organized session. 10%
- (3) Choose any seven weeks (from weeks 2-9) to write a 2-3 page reading response on the books/selected readings assigned for the week (seven papers in total). The response should include the following: a brief summary of the author's main argument, your critique of the argument, and an evaluation of the book's use of evidence and its contributions. 30%
- (4) **Graduate students:** For week two, choose two textbooks and two sourcebooks from the Week 2 (4/12) reading, and write a 3 page essay that evaluates their relative strengths and weaknesses as teaching tools for late imperial Chinese history.
- (5) **Graduate students:** Write a syllabus for a course on Yuan, Ming, and Qing China for an upper division lecture course (meeting two times a week with one day of discussion in a 10 week quarter system). 25%
- (6) **Undergraduate students:** Write a term paper that includes 1) a concise literature review of the subject you write on and 2) original research based on primary sources. Targeted length: 10-12 pages. 25%

NOTE: Papers are due at the beginning of class. In case of illness or emergency, contact the instructor immediately and submit documentation (for example, a doctor's note) when you return to class.

Academic Honesty

Your work in this class is expected to be the product of your own efforts. Plagiarism in writing assignments (i.e., copying from articles, books, internet papers, and other students' work, without specifically acknowledging the source) will not be tolerated and will lead to serious consequences. For more information on the UCSD policy on academic dishonesty, visit: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>.

Schedule of meetings and readings

Week 1, 4/5 Introduction and organization

Week 2, 4/12 Textbooks and primary sources

Selections from Ebrey, Patricia, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* and *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (chapters on Yuan, Ming and Qing)

Graduate students: familiarize yourself with the following:

Textbooks (focus on the chapters on Yuan, Ming and Qing):

Ebrey, B. Patricia. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. 1996.

Fairbank, John King. *China: A New History*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1992.
Shirokauer, Conrad and Miranda Brown. *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization*. Belmont, CA : Wadsworth, 2006.

Sourcebooks:

Susan Mann and Yu-Yin Cheng eds. *Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
de Bary, William Theodore, et al. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
Mair, Victor H. ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.
Mair, Victor H. ed. *Hawai'i Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*. Hawai'i, 2005.

Week 3, 4/19

Huang Ray. *1587, A Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.

Week 4, 4/26

Brook, Timothy. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Week 5, 5/3

Clunas, Craig. *Empire of Great Brightness: Visual and Material Cultures of Ming China, 1368-1644*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007

Week 6, 5/10

Kuhn, Philip A. *Soulstealers: The Chinese Sorcery Scare of 1768*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990.

Week 7, 5/17

Elman, Benjamin. *From Philosophy to Philology: Intellectual and Social Aspects of Change in Late Imperial China*. Cambridge, Mass.: Council on East Asian Studies Harvard University, 1984. (Graduate students only)
Selections from Ebrey, Patricia, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*.

Week 8, 5/24

Szonyi, Michael. *Practicing Kinship: Lineage and Descent in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Week 9, 5/31

Susan Mann. *The Talented Women of the Zhang Family*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.

Week 10, 6/7 Presentation

Course syllabus/term paper due Thursday, June 13, at 5:00pm. Please 1) submit a copy of the paper electronically (as an email attachment), and 2) place a hard copy of the paper in the envelope by my office door (Room 3044, HSS building).