

HIGR 217B Medieval Chinese History
Chinese History and Society During the Han Through the Song Dynasties

Classroom: HSS 3086

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or by appointment

Introduction

This seminar is designed to introduce you to ne portion of your minor field of pre-modern Chinese history: medieval Chinese history of the Han through the Song dynasties (206 BCE – 1279 CE). The goal of the course is for you to acquire the background necessary to do a good job in your own research, to master as well as learn to teach pre-modern Chinese history, and to see the connections between medieval and more recent history. In addition, you should be able to apply a critical gaze to the great deal of nonsense about this period that appears in popular and academic publications, both Chinese and Western.

The framework and main narrative of the course will be historical. The approach will be interdisciplinary, including theories and methodologies derived from a broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. Our sources will be diverse. We will read both primary and secondary sources. In addition to reading literary, government,

and religious texts, we will consider material culture as presented in art, archaeology, and films. We will put family, daily life, religion, economy, and government at the center of our investigations, but we will also try to include underrepresented groups, such as women, workers, and minorities. We will focus on continuity and change, crisis and response, challenge and creativity. In effect, we are tracing the development of the great medieval systems and institutions -- political, family, and religious -- in their cultural contexts.

Class Requirements

We will meet together once a week to discuss the assigned books, other books students present and critique, and each class member's research. Students are required to come to class, do the reading, and participate in discussions. There will be at least one book assigned to the whole seminar each week, and for that book a reading response two pages long will be required at the end of class. Class members will sign up individually or in groups to lead discussion each week. You should lead discussion at least three times this quarter. In addition, each week I will assign (or you can find) other books relevant to the week's topic for individual participants to read and present briefly to the class. Each person should present at least three extra books. There are no exams.

Responses will be graded on a check-plus, check, and check-minus basis and responses for the first week will not be counted as part of your final grade. The responses should not summarize the readings – we are all reading the same books so this is even more pointless than usual -- but bring up topics that will promote lively discussion. Focus on argument, evidence, theories, and methodology. Think about what these books might be good for, such as teaching, research, or textbooks. Who should read them? Be critical, be selfish, focus on your own interests, and bring up questions for the class. Do not bore each other and do not be afraid to look stupid.

The same goes for the outside books you present. You will read the extra books along with the assigned readings and present these books to the class. You can choose them yourself according to your interests, or ask for help in selecting them. You do not have to turn in a formal reading response for the extra books—your notes or talking points, in whatever form, will be enough. That way everyone will have the benefit of becoming familiar with a wider range of works on each subject than any one person could master. In the case of these books, a little summary might be in order as the rest of the class will not have read your book. We will schedule these book critiques throughout the quarter to coincide with the topics we cover each week.

At the end of the quarter, each student will turn in two final pieces of work. The first is a syllabus for a course you would teach on Han – Song Chinese history, introduced by a short statement of your pedagogical goals and a description of the make-up of your ideal class, and concluding with an annotated bibliography of materials that you would use to prepare for teaching the course. The second piece of work is a list of important themes related to medieval Chinese history, along with a list of books and other materials you have read or will read in preparation for your oral exam on pre-modern Chinese history at the end of spring quarter. One of the themes must be the connections of your proposed field of dissertation research to developments during the Han – Song periods and to theories and methodologies we have explored during the quarter. (We will go over the second piece of work in preparation for your exam in the spring.) These assignments will both be due on the date of our final meeting during exam week.

We will meet for lunch or dinner at Prof. Cahill's house during finals week, and each student will present his or her syllabus and list of themes. The date of this meeting is not yet set. Bring your schedules for exam week to class when we meet during week two, so we can finalize the date. The default date and time will be that of our regularly scheduled final exam.

Required Books (Available at the University Bookstore and on reserve at Geisel Library)

Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilization*

Victor Mair, *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*

W. H Theodore deBary, *Sources of Chinese Civilization*, Volume 1, 2nd edition

Whitfield, Whitfield, and Agnew, *Life Along the Silk Road*

Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History*

Burton Watson, *Lotus Sutra*

Stephen Bokenkamp, *Early Daoist Scriptures*

N. Harry Rothschild. *Wu Zhao*

Dieter Kuhn, *The Age of Confucian Rule*

Patricia Ebrey, *The Inner Quarters*

Schedule and Course Outline with Readings

(Readings and reading responses due on the date they are listed)

Week One

I. Introduction, Issues, Definitions, Plans

Week Two

II. General History

Read Han – Song sections of Gernet; read any other history for comparison (e.g., textbooks for HILD 10).

III. General Sources

Week Three

Read Han – Song sections of deBary; read any other anthology of sources for comparison (e.g., Ebrey). Note that in deBary, Buddhism, Daoism, and Women are covered in sections separated from the historical narrative. Be sure to read these too.

Week Four

Read Han – Song sections of Mair

IV. Three Kingdoms and Six Dynasties (220 – 589)

A. General History of the Era

Reread relevant sections of deBary and Mair, including relevant portions on Buddhism and Daoism. (In deBary these are separate sections.)

Week Five

B. Buddhism

Read Wright.

Week Six

C. Buddhist Scriptures

Read Watson.

Week Seven

D. Daoism and Daoist Scriptures:

Read Bokenkamp.

V. The Sui (589 – 618) and Tang (618-907) Dynasties

Week Eight

A. Tang General History and the Silk Road:

Read Whitfield et al. Reread deBary and Mair sections on the Tang plus a monograph of your choosing on the Tang.

VI. The Song Dynasty (960 – 1278)

Week Nine

A. The Song Renaissance:

Read Kuhn.

Reread deBary and Mair sections on the Song.

Week Ten

B. Women, Family, and Gender in Song China:

Read Ebrey and a monograph of your choice on the Song.

Finals week

Final Presentations and lunch or dinner at Prof. Cahill's house
Day and time to be decided.

CHINESE CHRONOLOGY

B.C.E.: Late Neolithic Period	ca. 5000 – 2000
Xia (?)	ca. 2100 – 1600
Shang	ca. 1600 – 1028
Zhou	ca. 1027 – 256
Western Zhou	ca. 1027-771
Eastern Zhou	ca. 770-256
Spring and Autumn	722-468
Warring States	403-221
Qin	221-207
Han	206 B.C.E.-220 C.E.
Former Han	206 B.C.E-8 C.E.
C.E.: Xin	9-25
Latter Han	25-220
Three Kingdoms	220-265
Wei	220-265
Shu	221-263
Wu	222-280
Jin	265-420
Western Jin	265-317
Eastern Jin	317-420
Six Dynasties	420-589
Southern dynasties	
Liu Song	420-479
Southern Qi	470-502
Southern Liang	502-557
Southern Chen	557-589
Northern dynasties	
Northern Wei	386-534
Eastern Wei	534-550
Western Wei	535-577
Northern Qi	550-577
Northern Zhou	557-581
Sui	581-618
Tang	618-907

Zhou	690-705
Five Dynasties	907-960
Liao	916-1125
Song	960-1279
Northern Song	960-1126
Southern Song	1127- 1279
Jin (Jurchen)	1115-1234
Yuan (Mongol)	1260-1368
Ming	1368-1644
Qing (Manchu)	1644-1911
ROC (Taiwan) & PRC	1911-1949, 1949 – present

Wade-Giles to *pinyin* Conversion Table

Wade-Giles	<i>pinyin</i> <i>n</i>
a	a
ai	ai
an	an
ang	ang
ao	ao
cha	zha
ch'a	cha
chai	zhai
ch'ai	chai
chan	zhan
ch'an	chan
chang	zhan g

ch'ang	chan
	g
chao	zhao
ch'ao	chao
che	zhe
ch'e	che
chen	zhen
ch'en	chen
cheng	zhen
	g
ch'eng	chen
	g
chi	ji
ch'i	qi
chia	jia
ch'ia	qia
chiang	jiang
ch'iang	qian
	g
chiao	jiao
ch'iao	qiao
chieh	jie
ch'ieh	qie
chien	jian
ch'ien	qian
chih	zhi
ch'ih	chi
chin	jin
ch'in	qin
ching	jing
ch'ing	qing
chiu	jiu
ch'iu	qiu
chiung	jiong
ch'iung	qion
	g
cho	zhuo
ch'o	chuo
chou	zhou
ch'ou	chou

chu	zhu
ch'u	chu
chü	ju
ch'ü	qu
chua	zhua
chuai	zhuai
ch'uai	chuai
chuan	zhua n
ch'uan	chua n
chüan	juan
ch'üan	quan
chuang	zhua ng
ch'uang	chua ng
chüeh	jue
ch'üeh	que
chui	zhui
ch'ui	chui
chun	zhun
ch'un	chun
chün	jun
ch'ün	qun
chung	zhon g
ch'ung	chon g
en	en
erh	er
fa	fa
fan	fan
fang	fang
fei	fei
fen	fen
feng	feng
fo	fo
fou	fou
fu	fu

ha	ha
hai	hai
han	han
hang	hang
hao	hao
hei	hei
hen	hen
heng	heng
ho	he
hou	hou
hsi	xi
hsia	xia
hsiang	xian
hsiao	g
hsieh	xiao
hsien	xie
hsin	xian
hsing	xin
hsiu	xing
hsiung	xiu
hsü	xion
hsüan	g
hsüeh	xu
hsün	xuan
hu	xue
hua	xun
huai	hu
huan	hua
huang	huai
hui	huan
hun	g
hung	hui
huo	hun
i	hong
jan	huo
jang	yi
jao	ran
	rang
	rao

je	re
jen	ren
jeng	reng
jih	ri
jo	ruo
jou	rou
ju	ru
juan	ruan
jui	ru
jun	run
jung	rong
ka	ga
k'a	ka
kai	gai
k'ai	kai
kan	gan
k'an	kan
kang	gang
k'ang	kang
kao	gao
k'ao	kao
ken	gen
k'en	ken
keng	geng
k'eng	keng
ko	ge
k'o	ke
kou	gou
k'ou	kou
ku	gu
k'u	ku
kua	gua
k'ua	kua
kuai	guai
k'uai	kuai
kuan	guan
k'uan	kuan
kuang	guan
k'uang	g
	kuan

kuei	g
k'uei	gui
kun	kui
k'un	gun
kung	kun
k'ung	gong
kuo	kong
k'uo	guo
la	kuo
lai	la
lan	lai
lang	lan
lao	lang
le	lao
lei	le
leng	lei
li	leng
liang	li
liao	liang
lieh	liao
lien	lie
lin	lian
ling	lin
liu	ling
lo	liu
lou	lo
lu	lou
lū	lu
luan	lū
lūan	luan
lūeh	lūan
lun	lue
lung	lun
ma	lung
mai	ma
man	mai
mang	man
mao	man
	g
	mao

mei	mei
men	men
meng	men
	g
mi	mi
miao	miao
mieh	mie
mien	mian
min	min
ming	ming
miu	miu
mo	mo
mou	mou
mu	mu
na	na
nai	nai
nan	nan
nang	nang
nao	nao
nei	nei
nen	nen
neng	neng
ni	ni
niang	nian
	g
niao	niao
nieh	nie
nien	nian
nin	nin
ning	ning
niu	niu
no	nuo
nou	nou
nu	nu
nü	nü
nuan	nuan
nüeh	nue
nung	nong
o	e
ou	ou

pa	ba
p'a	pa
pai	bai
p'ai	pai
pan	ban
p'an	pan
pang	bang
p'ang	pang
pao	bao
p'ao	pao
pei	bei
p'ei	pei
pen	ben
p'en	pen
peng	beng
p'eng	peng
pi	bi
p'i	pi
piao	biao
p'iao	piao
pieh	bie
p'ieh	pie
pien	bian
p'ien	pian
pin	bin
p'in	pin
ping	bing
p'ing	ping
po	bo
p'o	po
p'ou	pou
pu	bu
p'u	pu
sa	sa
sai	sai
san	san
sang	sang
sao	sao
se	se
sen	sen

seng	seng
sha	sha
shai	shai
shan	shan
shang	shan g
shao	shao
she	she
shen	shen
sheng	shen g
shih	shi
shou	shou
shu	shu
shua	shua
shuai	shuai
shuan	shua n
shuang	shua ng
shui	shui
shun	shun
shuo	shuo
so	suo
sou	sou
ssu	si
su	su
suan	suan
sui	sui
sun	sun
sung	song
ta	da
t'a	ta
tai	dai
t'ai	tai
tan	dan
t'an	tan
tang	dang
t'ang	tang
tao	dao

t'ao	tao
te	de
t'e	te
teng	deng
t'eng	teng
ti	di
t'i	ti
tiao	diao
t'iao	tiao
tieh	die
t'ieh	tie
tien	dian
t'ien	tian
ting	ding
t'ing	ting
tiu	diu
to	duo
t'o	tuo
tou	dou
t'ou	tou
tu	du
t'u	tu
tuan	duan
t'uan	tuan
tui	dui
t'ui	tui
tun	dun
t'un	tun
tung	dong
t'ung	tong
tsa	za
ts'a	ca
tsai	zai
ts'ai	cai
tsan	zan
ts'an	can
tsang	zang
ts'ang	cang
tsao	zao
ts'ao	cao

tse	ze
ts'e	ce
tsei	zei
tsen	zen
ts'en	cen
tseng	zeng
ts'eng	ceng
tso	zuo
ts'o	cuo
tsou	zou
ts'ou	cou
tsu	zu
ts'u	cu
tsuan	zuan
ts'uan	cuan
tsui	zui
ts'ui	cui
tsun	zun
ts'un	cun
tsung	zong
ts'ung	cong
tzu	zi
tz'u	ci
wa	wa
wai	wai
wan	wan
wang	wang
wei	wei
wen	wen
weng	weng
wo	wo
wu	wu
ya	ya
yai	yai
yang	yang
yao	yao
yeh	ye
yen	yan
yin	yin
ying	ying

yo
yu
yü
yüan
yüeh
yün
yung

yo
you
yu
yuan
yue
yun
yong