

About this Course

Method of assessment:

Students are expected to attend all meetings, prepare the required readings and participate in in-class discussions. Further, they will be asked to give one presentation of approximately 15 minutes based on a selected article or passage from a book. After the end of term, students will prepare an essay of c. 20pp. on a topic of their own choice.

Course objectives:

In this course, students will

1. acquire an understanding of some key issues in current debates on history and historiography;
2. familiarise themselves with a variety of thematic and methodological approaches to the study of history;
3. learn about Chinese historiographical genres;
4. improve their ability to independently study, assess and reflect on both historical sources and works of scholarship;
5. hone their presentation skills;
6. work on their ability to research, plan and compose essays that meet academic standards.

1. History and Chinese Historical Writing

Topics:

- the conceptual distinction between history and past events
- primary and secondary sources / sources and works of historical scholarship
- facts, truth, objectivity and historiography
- origins and genres of traditional Chinese historiography

Required readings:

Durrant, Stephen. 1986. "Shih-chi". In: *Indiana Companion to Chinese Literature*, ed. William Nienhauser, Jr. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 689-692.

Jenkins, Keith. 2003. *Re-Thinking History*. London and New York: Routledge. Chapter One.

- Pines, Yuri. 2009. "Chinese History Writing Between the Sacred and the Secular". In *Early Chinese Religion*, vol. 1, ed. John Lagerwey and Marc Kalinowski. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 315-340.
- Watson, Burton. 1999. "The Great Han Historians". In *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, ed. Thodore de Bary and Irene Bloom. Second edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 367-374.

Further reading:

- Dubs, Homer H. 1946. "The Reliability of Chinese Histories". *Far Eastern Quarterly* 6.1: 23-43.
- Gaddis, John Lewis. 2002. *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wilkinson, Endymion. 2000. *Chinese History: A Manual*. Cambridge, Mass., and London: Harvard University Press, 479-497.

2. Social and Economic History

Topics:

- the importance of manuscript sources
- differences between historiographical writing and ephemeral sources
- macro and micro perspectives on history and society
- book reviews as a genre of academic writing

Required readings:

- McDermott, Joseph P. 1999. Review of Éric Trombert, *Le crédit à Dunhuang* (Paris 1995). *T'oung Pao* 85.4-5: 476-484.
- Twitchett, Denis. 1957. "The Monasteries and China's Economic History in Medieval Times". *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 19.3: 526-549.
- . 1966. "Chinese Social History from the Seventh to the Tenth Centuries: The Tunhuang Documents and Their Implications". *Past and Present* 35: 28-53.

Readings for student presentations:

- Rong, Xinjiang. 1999. "The Nature of the Dunhuang Library Cave and the Reasons for Its Sealing". *Cahiers d'Extrême Asie* 11: 247-275.
- Skinner, G. William. 1985. "The Structure of Chinese History". *Journal of Asian Studies* 44.2: 271-292.

Further reading:

- Elvin, Mark. 1973. *The Pattern of the Chinese Past*. London: Methuen. [Cf. the review article by Nathan Sivin, "Imperial China: Has Its Present Past a Future?", *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 38.2 (1978): 449-480.]
- Pomeranz, Kenneth. 2000. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.
- Rowe, William T. 2007. "Owen Lattimore, Asia, and Comparative History". *Journal of Asian Studies* 66.3: 759-786.
- Shaughnessy, Edward L., ed. 1997. *New Sources of Early Chinese History: An Introduction to the Reading of Inscriptions and Manuscripts*. Berkeley: Society for the Study of Early China and Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California.

3. Culture and Mentality**Topics:**

- cultural history
- the usefulness, or otherwise, of the notion of collective mentalities
- literary texts as historical sources
- the annotation of translated sources

Required readings:

- Dudbridge, Glen. 1995. *Religious Experience and Lay Society in T'ang China: A Reading of Tai Fu's Kuang-i chi*. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 1-17.
- Burke, Peter. 1997. "History and Social Memory". In: *Varieties of Cultural History*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 43-59.
- Knickerbocker, Bruce J., trans. 2010. "'Zhenzhong ji' (Record within a Pillow)". In *Tang Dynasty Tales: A Guided Reader*, ed. William H. Nienhauser, Jr. Hackensack: World Scientific Publishing Co., 73-119.

Readings for student presentations:

- Poo, Mu-chou. 1998. *In Search of Personal Welfare: A View of Ancient Chinese Religion*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 69-91.

Further reading:

- Corbin, Alain. 1986. *The Foul and the Fragrant: Odor and the French Social Imagination*. New York [etc.]: Berg Publishers, 1-34.
- Grafton, Anthony. 1999. *The Footnote: A Curious History*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

4. Writing, Printing, and Communication

Topics:

- the use of printing in the distribution and transmission of knowledge
- the social effects of printing and large-scale book production
- uses of books beyond reading
- motivation and implementation of state policies intended to control the spread of information

Required readings:

- Chia, Lucille, and Hilde de Weerdt. 2011. "Introduction". In *Knowledge and Text Production in an Age of Print*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 1-29.
- Egan, Ronald. 2011. "To Count Grains of Sand on the Ocean Floor: Changing Perceptions of Books and Learning in the Song Dynasty". In *Knowledge and Text Production*, 33-62.
- Finkelstein, David, and Alistair McCleery, ed. 2005. *An Introduction to Book History*. New York and London: Routledge. Ch. 1: "Theorising the History of the Book".

Readings for student presentations:

- De Weerdt, Hilde. 2006. "What Did Su Che See in the North? Publishing Regulations, State Security, and Political Culture in Song China". *T'oung Pao* 92: 466-494.
- McDermott, Joseph P. 2011. "Book Collecting in Jiangxi during the Song Dynasty". In *Knowledge and Text Production*, 63-101.

Further reading:

- Drège, Jean-Pierre. 1991. *Les bibliothèques en Chine au temps des manuscrits (jusqu'au X^e siècle)*. Paris: École Française d'Extrême-Orient.
- Febvre, Lucien, and Henri-Jean Martin. 1976 [1958]. *The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing, 1450-1800*. London: NLB, 248-261.
- McDermott, Joseph P. 2006. *A Social History of the Chinese Book: Books and Literati Culture in Late Imperial China*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Tsien, Tsuen-hsün. 2004. *Written on Bamboo and Silk: The Beginnings of Chinese Books and Inscriptions*. Second edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

5. Gender

Topics:

- the distinction between (biological) sex and (cultural) gender
- images and roles of women in Chinese society
- notions of masculinity
- law and gender

Required readings:

- Butler, Judith. 2002 [1990]. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York and London: Routledge, 22-33.
- Huang, Martin W. 2006. *Negotiating Masculinities in Late Imperial China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1-32.
- Mann, Susan. 1997. *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1-44.

Readings for student presentations:

- Sommer, Matthew H. 1996. "The Uses of Chastity: Sex, Law, and the Property of Widows in Qing China". *Late Imperial China* 17.2: 77-130

Further reading:

- Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. 1993. *The Inner Quarters: Marriage and the Lives of Chinese Women in the Sung Period*. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press.
- Hinsch, Bret. 2011. *Women in Early China*. Second edition. Lanham [etc.]: Rowman & Littlefield.

6. Ethnicity

Topics:

- historical and political views on the relationship between nation, ethnicity and state
- traditional concepts of “Chineseness”
- the case of the Manchus as an ethnically distinct conquering elite

Required readings:

Crossley, Pamela Kyle. 1990. *Orphan Warriors: Three Manchu Generations and the End of the Qing World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 13-30.

Harrison, Henrietta. 2001. *China. Inventing the Nation*. London: Hodder Arnold, 132-149.

Smith, Anthony D. 1986. *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 6-41.

Readings for student presentations:

Elliott, Mark C. 2006. “Ethnicity in the Qing Eight Banners”. In *Empire at the Margins: Culture, Ethnicity and Frontier in Early Modern China*, ed. Pamela Kyle Crossley, Helen F. Siu, and Donald S. Sutton. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 28-57.

Pines, Yuri. “Beasts or Humans: Pre-Imperial Origins of the ‘Sino-Barbarian’ Dichotomy”. In *Mongols, Turks and Others: Eurasian Nomads and the Sedentary World*, ed. Reuven Amitai and Michal Biran. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 59-102

Further reading:

Crossley, Pamela Kyle. 1999. *A Translucent Mirror: History and Identity in Qing Imperial Ideology*. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press.

Elliott, Mark C. 2001. *The Manchu Way: The Eight Banners and Ethnic Identity in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.