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HIST 286-01, Late Imperial China, Spring 1999

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Office hours: M 2:00 - 3:00, W 2:00 - 3:00, Th 1:00 - 2:00, and by appointment

HISTORY 286: LATE IMPERIAL CHINA

M, W, F 12:40-1:40 (E hour), PALMER 207

Required texts:

- Ebrey, Patricia. *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*
- Gernet, Jacques. *Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion*
- Spence, Jonathan. *The Death of Woman Wang*
- Struve, Lynn. *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm: China in Tigers' Jaws*
- Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*

This course examines China's development into a modern nation from the Song reunification (A.D. 960) to the end of the cataclysmic Taiping Rebellion (A.D. 1864). The approach is multifaceted in an effort to reveal the richness and complexity of China's past; it therefore includes the study of Chinese traditions of philosophy, religion, and the literate and visual arts together with the study of political and social history. Students will be expected to understand significant events and trends, as well as the roles of important individuals, in these areas.

Requirements for the course:

1. Regular class attendance and alert participation
2. Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials and intelligent assessment of audiovisual resources
3. One map quiz and two slide quizzes
4. Two papers on assigned topics
5. Three exams (including the final exam)

Additional quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short writing assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audiovisual materials. Papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. **Late work will not be accepted.** For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. **Errors of this type will be penalized.** If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness. **Always** keep a hard copy (a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper.

Thoughtful classroom participation is encouraged and will be considered in the calculation of the final grade for the course. Excessive absences and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom may result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed; excessive absences (i.e., 9 or more) will result in the student being dropped from the course or in an "F" for the final course grade. A good rule of thumb: Do not expect to get a final grade higher than the percentage of classes you attended (e.g.: If you attend 80% of all scheduled class

meetings, you should not expect a final grade higher than 80% -- a B-). Final grades will be based approximately 75% on written work and approximately 25% on classroom participation. **Extra credit will not be permitted.** Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented excuses; if you are wondering if your excuse is legitimate, it probably is not. Note that a “W” (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes honor code. Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the college. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else’s information/material without properly citing the source of that information/material). **You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not.** Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and exams. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Extreme instances of similarities in exams or papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

SYLLABUS

The following syllabus tells you which pages are to be completed PRIOR TO that day’s class.

Week 1

Jan. 13 W Introduction to the course and texts

during **Plan ahead:** Begin preparing for your MAP QUIZ. You must be able to place ALL geographical features on the list (which will be provided the quiz) on a blank map of China.

15 F The geographical and historical background

Week 2

Jan. 18 M **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OBSERVANCE -- NO CLASS**

20 W Chinese thought and society
READING: Ebrey, pp. 17-37, 64-68, 72-76

22 F Chinese thought and society (continued)
READING: Ebrey, pp. 97-104

Week 3

Jan. 25 M Chinese government and the literati
READING: Ebrey, pp. 60-63, 112-119
MAP QUIZ

Plan ahead: Begin reading Gernet, *Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion*. For this assignment, you will first need to determine what makes a society “modern,” and then apply your criteria to Song society as described in Gernet’s book.

Jan. 27 W The Five Dynasties and the Establishment of the Song Dynasty

29 F The Age of Wang Anshi: Reform and Its Opponents
READING: Ebrey, pp. 151-154

Week 4

Feb. 01 M The Northern Song State and Its International Relations
READING: Wang Gungwu, “The Rhetoric of a Lesser Empire: Early Sung Relations with Its Neighbors” (handout)

03 W China among Equals: Southern Song, Jin, and Xi-Xia
READING: Ebrey, pp. 139-141, 169-171

05 F Song Society
READING: Gernet (entire)
FIRST PAPER DUE

Week 5

Feb. 08 M Song Arts: The Aesthetic of Restraint
READING: Sullivan, pp. 141-178

10 W Zhu Xi and Neo-Confucianism
READING: Ebrey, pp. 172-177

12 F The Rise of the Mongols and the Expansion of Mongol Power

Week 6

Feb. 15 M Khubilai Khan and the Mongol Conquest of China
READING: Ebrey, pp. 192-194

17 W FIRST EXAM (bring bluebooks)

19 F The Yuan Dynasty: China and the “Tartar Yoke”
READING: Marco Polo, *The Travels*, selections (handout)

Week 7

- Feb. 22 M Yuan Drama and Social Criticism
READING: "The Injustice Done to Tou Ngo" (handout)
- Feb. 24 W Yuan Arts and Letters
READING: Sullivan, pp. 179-197
- 26 F The Fall of the Yuan Dynasty and the Founding of the Ming Dynasty

Week 8

- Mar. 01 M The Hongwu Emperor: Absolutism and Government
READING: Ebrey, pp. 205-207
- 03 W The Yongle Emperor and His Successors: Expansionism and Isolationism
- 05 F Early Contacts with the West
SLIDE QUIZ # 1

Mar. **08-12 SPRING RECESS -- NO CLASS**

Week 9

- Mar. 15 M Ming Literature and the Development of the Novel
READING: Ebrey, pp. 226-237
- 17 W Ming Thought: Philosophy and Action
READING: Ebrey, pp. 256-262
- 19 F Ming Arts
READING: Sullivan, pp. 198-222

Week 10

- Mar. 22 M **SECOND EXAM** (bring bluebooks)
- 24 W **NO CLASS -- read Spence's *The Death of Woman Wang* for Friday's discussion**
- 26 F Society in Late Imperial China
READING: Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang* (entire)
--be prepared to discuss this work

Week 11

- Mar. 29 M Society in Late Imperial China (continued)
 READING: Ebrey, pp. 238-255, 297-300, 326-329
- 31 W The Collapse of the Ming Dynasty
 READING: Ebrey, pp. 263-266
 “An Eyewitness’ Report on Famine Conditions”
- Apr. 02 F **EASTER RECESS -- NO CLASS**

Week 12

Special Mini-Unit: This week will be devoted entirely to the subject of the presentation should address the question: Why is this voice important? After the mini-unit, each student will turn in a **paper** (2000 word minimum, double spaced) that examines the entire book through the following questions: What kinds of voices do we hear? What kinds of voices do we not hear? What can we learn about the Ming-Qing transition from these voices?

Manchu

- Apr. 05 M The Manchu Conquest of China
 READING: Struve, pp. 1-92
- 07 W The Manchu Conquest of China (continued)
 READING: Struve, pp. 93-161
- 09 F The Manchu Conquest of China (continued)
 READING: Struve, pp. 162-260

Week 13

- Apr. 12 M The Early Qing Dynasty
SECOND PAPER DUE
- 14 W The Kangxi and Yongzheng Emperors
 READING: The Kangxi Emperor, “Sons” (handout)
- 16 F The Qianlong Emperor: Sovereign and Symbol
 READING: “The Emperor’s Decree to the Outer Barbarians” (handout)

Week 14

- Apr. 19 M Qing Arts: The Aesthetic of Profusion
 READING: Sullivan, pp. 223-247
- 21 W Qing Thought and Literature
 READING: Ebrey, pp. 304-308

23 F Problems of the Late Qing

Week 15

Apr. 26 M The Opium War
READING: Ebrey, pp. 311-312
“Lin Zexu’s Moral Advice to Queen Victoria”
(handout)

28 W The Taiping Rebellion
READING: Ebrey, pp. 318-322
“A Public Denunciation Against the Manchus”
(handout)

30 F The Collapse of the Traditional Chinese World Order
SLIDE QUIZ # 2

***** May 07 F FINAL EXAM (bring bluebooks): 1:00 - 3:30 P.M. *****