

## Course Syllabus

HUMA5510: Pre-Modern Chinese History

Instructor: Lawrence Zhang

Spring 2022

Office: Rm 2385, Academic Building

Email: hmlczhang@ust.hk

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00pm, or by appointment -- ZOOM ID: 281 828 6834 (passcode: huma)

This course is designed for research postgraduate students to familiarize them with major debates in pre-modern Chinese history, and to explore what it means to conduct historical research and engage with the literature. The course is conducted as graduate seminars do - discussion based coursework during the semester, plus a paper at the end. It is crucial for students to read the materials prior to coming to class, or it will be impossible to conduct discussions in a meaningful manner. Students should think about not only the content of individual readings, but also their relation with each other.

### Course Hours:

Tuesdays: 16:30 – 19:20

### Location:

Rm 5510, Lift 25-26

### Evaluation:

40% class participation

25% presentation

35% written report

### CILOs:

Develop a comprehension of traditional Chinese culture and history from a comparative perspective  
Identify and describe the mainstream in the research, especially the latest development in the frontier

Develop a critical view of sources and an independent perspective to approach the issues in discussion

Demonstrate improved writing skills

Final Assignment:

The main written project for this course is a written report/presentation of the career and work of one historian. It should cover the entire corpus of his/her work, and delineate what the main arguments for this historian's major works are, what are his/her academic influences, and who are his/her interlocutors.

Late assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class of the days when they are due, and anything submitted subsequent to the due time is considered late. For each day of lateness, one third of a letter grade will be deducted from the assignment's grade, including weekends.

Class schedule:

Feb 8th: What do historians do?

Feb 15th: Max Weber and China

Otto B. van der Sprenkel, "Max Weber on China," *History and Theory* 3:3 (1964), 348-70.

Max Weber, Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills trans., *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1958, 416-444.

Feb 22nd: The Tang-Song transition

Robert Hartwell, "Demographic, Political, and Social Transformations of China, 750-1550." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 42, no. 2: 365-442.

Nicholas Tackett, *The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2014. Introduction & conclusion.

#### Mar 1st: The Macartney Mission

Joseph Esherick, "Cherishing Sources from Afar," review of *Cherishing Men from Afar: Qing Guest Ritual and the Macartney Embassy of 1793* by James L. Hevia, *Modern China* 24:2 (1998), 135-61.

James L. Hevia, "Postpolemical Historiography," response to Joseph Esherick, *Modern China* 24:3 (1998), 319-27.

Joseph Esherick, "Traduttore, Traditore: A Reply to James Hevia," *Modern China* 24:3 (1998), 328-32.

#### Mar 8th: A China Centered History

Philip A. Kuhn, *Rebellion and Its Enemies in Late Imperial China: Militarization and Social Structure, 1796-1864*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980. Introduction. \*NEED COPY

Paul A. Cohen, *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.

#### Mar 15th: Gentry, Literati, Elites

Chung-li Chang, *The Chinese Gentry: Studies on Their Role in Nineteenth Century Chinese Society*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1955.

Chu Tung-tsu, *Local Government in China under the Ch'ing*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1962.

Prasenjit Duara, *Culture, Power, and the State: Rural North China, 1900-1942*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1989.

Joseph W. Esherick and Mary Backus Rankin, *Chinese Local Elites and Patterns of Dominance*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010. "Introduction."

#### Mar 22nd: Meritocracy in Imperial China

Ping-ti Ho, *Ladder of Success in Imperial China: Aspects of Social Mobility, 1368-1911*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1962.

Robert Hymes, *Statesmen and Gentlemen: The Elite of Fu-Chou, Chiang-Hsi, in Northern and Southern Sung*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

Benjamin A. Elman, "Political, Social, and Cultural Reproduction via Civil Service Examinations in Late Imperial China," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 50:1 (1991), 7-28.

Lawrence Zhang, "Legacy of Success: Office Purchase and State-Elite Relations in Qing China," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 73:2 (2013), 259-97.

Mar 29th: Gender issues

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91, No. 5 (Dec 1986), 1053-1075.

Beverly Bossler. *Powerful Relations, Kinship, Family, and the State in Sung China (960-1279)*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 1991.

Apr 12th: Economic growth or lackthereof

Mark Elvin, *The Pattern of the Chinese Past: A Social and Economic Interpretation*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1973.

Philip C. C. Huang, *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta, 1350-1988*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990.

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Andrew B. Liu, "Incense and Industry: Labour and Capital in the Tea Districts of Huizhou, China," *Past and Present* 230:1 (2016), 161-95.

Apr 19th: The Fall of Empire

Philip A. Kuhn, *Origins of the Modern Chinese State*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Peter Zarrow, *After Empire: The Conceptual Transformation of the Chinese State, 1885-1924*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012.

First draft of final assignment due

Apr 26th: Peer critique of final assignment draft

May 3rd: Individual consultations on final project

May 10th: Presentations of final assignment