

HUMA 2470 From Fung Shui to Mao's Villages: City Plans, Urban Politics & the Unseen World of Chinese Villages

Spring 2019, Division of Humanities, HKUST

Instructor: V. K. Y. Ho

Office: Rm. 3349

Email: HMVIHOKY@ust.hk

Office Hours: Wednesday 1630 to 1830, and Saturday 1600-1700, or by appointment

This course surveys the social and cultural transformation of China, focusing on what happened in major cities and rural communities, during the late-Qing and Republican periods, circa 1840 to 1940. The process of modernization, as well as the persistence of tradition, will be studied to redress some of the stereotype images of Chinese society and culture, both rural and urban. Social conditions and cultural phenomena in Chinese cities and villages in this period are critically analyzed. Topics include analysis of Chinese city plans and their social/political/cultural meanings, development and limitation of civil society in traditional/modern Chinese cities, the role of Western imperialism in urban development, the impact of warlords and the Nationalist on modernization in cities, the conditions of life in Chinese countryside, and the reality of political turmoil in Chinese villages, etc..

Texts

No textbooks are required. Most of the required readings are available on LMES. You are encouraged to consult supplementary/optional reading materials which are relevant to this course and hence very useful in developing your interests and broadening your knowledge on the topics discussed in this course, as well as in enhancing your performance in classroom discussion and examination.

Grading

Grade is based on your performance in classroom discussions/attendance (20%), assignments (30%) and examination (50%).

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Lectures are delivered normally twice a week. Readings must be kept up with because they will help you to understand the selected topics in greater details.

ILOs

On completion of this course, students will: 1) understand some of the fundamental principles (political, socio-economical, and cultural) in city/town planning in the imperial and the modern periods; 2) have learnt about some basic cultural differences between pre-modern European and Chinese city plans, and the long-term social and political consequences of such different historical development between the two regions; 3) obtain a better and deeper understanding of selected historical topics and issues of/in modern Chinese history covered in this course, such as the true impact of foreign imperialism on Chinese economy and society; 4) understand the social, economic and political structures and characteristics of Chinese village communities in the imperial and early modern periods, and how these elements had affected the course of historical development in modern China; 5) have learnt how to conduct simple historical research and have the opportunity of learning the communicative skills by writing an academic paper on a history subject appropriately, and to discuss it with their peers in classroom.

Weeks 1-2: China's City Plans: Continuity and Change

Readings:徐泓, "The Planning, Plan Layout and Symbolism of the Imperial Palace Compound of Nanjing in the Early Ming Dynasty" (in Chinese); 謝敏聰, '宇宙中心的象徵', '中國的都市觀景與其設計的意境', '總結'。 Charles Musgrove, "Building a Dream: Constructing a National Capital in Nanjing, 1927-1937"
Optional reading: Arthur F. Wright, "The Cosmology of the Chinese City", pp.34-73

QFD: How was the imperial power (皇權) manifested in major cities' plans? What kinds of symbols were employed to highlight the imperial power? Were all traditional cities built strictly according to cosmological principles and imperial ideology? What were the purposes of these architectural symbolisms in city plan?

Weeks 2-3: Culture of Cities in Imperial China

Readings: F.W. Mote, "The City in Traditional Chinese Civilization"; Etienne Balazs. Chinese Civilization and Bureaucracy, pp.66-78; Rhoads Murphy, "City as a Mirror of Society: China, Tradition and Transformation"; William T. Rowe's Hankow: Commerce and Society in a Chinese City, pp.1-16, Chapters 6, 8, 9, 10.

Optional Reading: 東京夢華錄.

QFD: What could we learn about China's society and cultures from studying history of its cities? Could we say that traditional Chinese cities were culturally and socially unique in comparison with its villages? Was Chinese city in traditional Chinese civilization culturally insignificant as Balazs and Murphey claim?

Weeks 4-5: Imperialism and Treaty-Port Cities

1) General: '前言'; '近代中國的商埠'

Optional reading: Rhoads Murphy's "The treaty ports and China's modernization" in Elvin and Skinner eds., Chinese Cities Between Two Worlds.

2) Shanghai

Readings: 吳圳義, '清末上海租界社會' chapters 2 & 4; 蔣介石, '中國之命運', pp. 122-8, 130-6; 周谷城, '都市社會里的人', pp.345-366;

Optional reading: Mark Elvin, "The Administration of Shanghai".

3) Canton

Readings: 廣州港史(近代), chapters 2 & 4; '廣州沙面租界概況'

Optional reading: 廣州的洋行與租界, pp. 1-60; Ezra Vogel's Canton Under Communism, chapter 1

QFD: How should we understand the true impacts of foreign imperialism on shaping Chinese city and its urban culture, with special reference to cities in the coastal area? What was life like in treaty-port city, to both the Chinese and the foreigners? To what extent was foreign imperialism as a major force of social change, and re-shape urban life in China?

Weeks 5-6: Warlords in Cities

Readings: 廣州港史(近代), chapter 5; Kristin Stapleton, "Yang Sen in Chengdu", in Joseph Esherick ed., Remaking the Chinese City; 張靜如, 北洋軍閥統治時期中國社會之變遷, pp. 76-90, 287-304

Optional reading: Robert Kapp, "Chungking as a Centre of Warlord Power, 1926-1937"

QFD: What role did the warlords play in the destruction and construction of Chinese cities in this period? Why do the Communist and the Nationalist regimes on both sides of the Taiwan Strait enjoy demonizing the Chinese warlords in the Republican times?

Weeks 7-8: Nationalist Cities: 1928-1937

Readings: Canton: 廣州港史(近代), chapter 7; 南天歲月, pp.210-275, 331-363; Christian Henriot's Shanghai, chapters 5,6,8,9; Zwig Lipkin, Useless to the State, chapter 1 "A New Society for the New Capital".

Optional readings: Min-ch'ien, Tau. Two Years in Nationalist China, chapter 10

QFD: What role did the Nationalists (KMT/GMD) play in the construction of modern Chinese cities in this period? How corrupt was the Nationalist government in this period?

Weeks 9-10: Impressions of Life in Chinese Countryside

Readings: 周谷城, '農村中貧富懸殊之風險', pp.324-44; Jack and Sulamith Potters, China's Peasants, chapter 1; William Hinton, Fanshen, chapters 1 to 4; Jean Chesneaux, China From the 1911 Revolution to Liberation, pp.111-116, 192-194.

Weeks 11-12: Rural Society from a Different Angle

Readings: Fei Hsiao-tung, Peasant Life in China, (中譯本: 江村經濟) Chapters 3-7, 10-12, 15; 林耀華, 金翼, chapters 1-7; Sidney Gamble, Ting Hsien, chapters 3, 5, 10, 13;

Optional readings: 費孝通, 鄉土中國, chapters 1,4,5,6; '廣東區委關於廣東農民運動報告', 廣民革命历史文件彙集 vol.6; Hugh Baker's "The Lineage and the Clan"; Aijmer and Ho, Cantonese Society in a Time of Change, chapter 2.

QFD: How possibly can we generalize the life experiences of Chinese peasants by saying that they were all badly exploited and oppressed by landlords and the local rich in their own villages, and also ruthlessly by a corrupt KMT government?

Week 13: Rural Revolutions

Readings: Jack and Sulamith Potters, China's Peasants, chapter 2; Jack Belden, "Stone Wall Village"; 毛澤東, '湖南農民運動考察報告'; 王桧林, 中國現代史, pp.182-191; C.K. Yang, A Chinese Village in Early Communist Transition, chapters 3-10.

QFD: How true is the official PRC narrative that Chinese peasants were "liberated" from centuries of socio-political oppression and economic exploitation *only* with the help of the Chinese Communist Party, and nothing else? How true is it that the final victory of the CCP was largely the inevitable result of Chinese peasants' spontaneous and unquestionable support of the Party?