

**Instructor: Lawrence Zhang**  
Spring 2024

Office: Rm 2385, Academic Building  
Email: hmlczhang@ust.hk  
**Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:00 pm, or by appointment**

## **HUMA5516: Research Methods and Sources in Qing History**

The course aims to familiarize students with the types of sources available for research from the late imperial period. They should become able to navigate through the different forms of these documents and find useful ones for their research purpose. They will also gain the ability to read through these documents with some level of comprehension, understanding their form, their creation, and their content. Students will be asked to come up with a research proposal for a topic of their choice, highlighting the type of documents that they may use and the scope of the project. Over the course of the semester students will also be translating sections of documents I select, both as a way to work on their translation skills, as well as to have them become more familiar with the types of documents at hand.

Students taking this course should be able to read classical Chinese.

**Course Hours:**  
Thursdays: 13:30 – 16:20

**Location:**  
Rm 5566, Lift 27-28

**Evaluation:**  
40% class participation  
60% research paper

**Reference texts:**  
Wilkinson, Endymion. *Chinese History: A New Manual, Enlarged Sixth Edition*. 2022.  
Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

馮爾康. *清史史料學*. 1993. 台北: 商務印書館.

### **CILOs:**

1. Analyze historical Chinese documents effectively
2. Synthesize various types of historical sources to answer research questions
3. Critique problems in historical sources
4. Formulate a research plan integrating sources and research questions
5. Translate historical Chinese text into English

**Participation:**

Every week there will be mandatory assigned sources that students are expected to not only read, but to translate into English. The documents are short in nature. During class we will go through the document assigned line by line in a translation exercise, and in the process discuss difficulties in reading the document and also the meaning of the source, etc. Students need to come to class and be prepared to provide translation for the document on the spot. Grades for this portion is counted under class participation and the student's quality of contribution is the main deciding factor in grade given.

If you are a RPG student, I would like to feature something that you are using right now for your own research project in the course for the whole class to go through together – I think it will be a useful, and hopefully helpful, exercise. Contact me with a copy of the document and which week you think it could fit in. (Later weeks' readings will be filled in as we arrange them based on individual students' research interests)

### **Research Paper:**

Students will be asked to write a research paper on an original topic of his/her choosing that utilizes Qing dynasty sources. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the professor. It should be a piece of original research conceived and conducted by the student that makes an academic argument. The paper should be between 6000-9000 words and adhere to standard citation practices and journal article formatting using Chicago style citations.

For the final week of the semester students are expected to present their research to the rest of the class. Details to follow.

### **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:**

Week 1 - Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: Introduction and overview, discussion of topics

Qiao, George, "Was there an Administrative Revolution?" *Journal of Chinese History* 8:1 (Jan 2024), 147-66.

Dykstra, Maura, "Response to George Qiao's Review of Uncertainty in the Empire of Routine: The Administrative Revolution of the Eighteenth-Century Qing State," *Journal of Chinese History* 8:1 (Jan 2024), 167-79.

Reference: Dykstra, Maura. *Uncertainty in the Empire of Routine: The Administrative Revolution of the Eighteenth-Century Qing State*. 2022. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Week 2 - Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: Central government sources – Published materials: *Veritable Records* and collected edicts

*Qing shilu*, Qianlong 42/11b, juan 1045 (whole)

*Shangyu tiaoli*, Qianlong 42 winter, “佐雜等官停止加捐分發” (translation)

Reference: Zhang, Lawrence, and Li Chong. “*Shangyu tiaoli* and the Study of Qing Central Government Legislative Agendas,” *Late Imperial China*, forthcoming.

Week 3 - Feb 15<sup>th</sup>: Central government sources – Archival materials: Palace memorials, *shishu* etc

Palace Memorial (translation)

Lufu zouzhe

Reference: Wu, Silas. *Communication and Imperial Control in China: Evolution of the Palace Memorial System, 1693-1735*. 1970. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Bartlett, Beatrice. *Monarchs and Ministers: The Grand Council in Mid-Ch'ing China, 1723-1820*. 1991. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Week 4 - Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>: Library Walkthrough – *Siku quanshu* and other collections

Guy, R. Kent. *The Emperor's Four Treasures: Scholars and the State in the Late Ch'ien-lung Era*. 1987. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Week 5 - Feb 29<sup>th</sup>: Central government sources – *Huidian*, *Huidian shili*, official history, and other published materials

TBD

Week 6 - Mar 7<sup>th</sup>: Local sources – provincial and county gazetteers

Task: Bring a copy of the Ming/Qing dynasty gazetteer of your hometown (or, a town you're interested in). Find something interesting in it that we should all learn about and present in class

**Paper proposal/draft due**

Week 7 - Mar 14<sup>th</sup>: Individual paper consultation

Week 8 - Mar 21<sup>st</sup>: Local sources – family genealogies, non-county gazetteers, travel records etc

TBD

Week 9 - Apr 11<sup>th</sup>: Individual sources – *wenji*, diaries, and *nianpu*

TBD

Week 10 - Apr 18<sup>th</sup>: Individual sources – *biji* and gossip

TBD

Week 11 - Apr 25<sup>th</sup>: Individual sources – literature of various types

TBD

Week 12 - May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Individual sources – miscellaneous materials

TBD

Week 13 - May 9<sup>th</sup>: Presentations of final assignment