Course Code: HUMA 5516
Course Title: Research methods and sources in Qing history
Course Offered in: Spring 2024
Course Instructor: Professor Lawrence Zhang

Course Description: This course is designed to help students familiarize themselves with various types of Qing documents. The course will cover a variety of different types of documents, from formal publications originating from the central government, to personal and family records of various types. This will help students intending to conduct research in late imperial Chinese history and related subjects.

Course Objectives:

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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

Course Outline:

Week 1 – overview of the course, introduction of basic resources, such as Wilkinson’s Manual. Students will be asked to think about a topic that will interest them for the course’s final project.
Week 2 – Central government sources – the veritable records and collected edicts
Week 3 – Central government sources – the imperial palace memorials, various types of shishu, and other collected, chronological documents
Week 4 – Central government sources – collected statutes and regulations of the Qing government, including huidian, huidian shili, and various kinds of zeli.
Week 5 – Library walkthrough – Siku quanshu and other collections of documents
Week 6 – Local sources – provincial and county gazetteers
Week 7 – Local sources – family genealogies
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Tentative Course Syllabus

Week 8 – Local sources – various local, non-county gazetteers, travel records
Week 9 – Individual sources – collected papers, diaries, and nianpu
Week 10 – Individual sources – biji and gossip
Week 11 – Individual sources – literature of various types
Week 12 – Individual sources – miscellaneous
Week 13 - Presentations

Planned Assessment Tasks:
- Weekly translation: 40%
- In class discussion: 25%
- Research proposal/presentation: 35%

Readings: