

History 384, Block 3, Fall 2005
Cultural and Social History of China

Course Description

This course is a detailed examination of the social and cultural order of late imperial China from roughly 1500 to 1800. It begins by considering the nature of the Ming (1368-1644) order as a template for understanding late imperial Chinese society. Turning to themes of continuity and change during the 17th century Ming-Qing transition, we look at the new ruling elites, the Manchus, and the construction of their multi-ethnic Qing empire. The remainder of the course consists of in-depth consideration of various themes of late imperial history through the “High Qing” period of the 18th century including: the civil service examination system, literati culture, popular religion, family life and gender roles, and legal culture. By the end of the course, students should be able to develop complex historical interpretations concerning the change and continuity within these various realms of life, and their role in the development of the late imperial order.

Readings:

Shen Fu. *Six Records of A Floating Life*. New York: Penguin Classics, 1983.
Brook, Timothy. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
Miyazaki, Ichisada. *China's Examination Hell*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.
Kuhn, Philip A. *Soul Stealers*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, reissue edition, 2005.
Sommers, Matthew. *Sex, Law, and Society in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.
Spence, Jonathan. *The Death of Woman Wang*. New York: Penguin, 1998.

Other assigned readings will be distributed in class

Assessment:

Class Participation: 25%
Discussion Presentations: 15%
Weekly Essays (3): 45%
Final Essay: 15%

Class Schedule

WEEK ONE: LATE IMPERIAL SOCIETY-THE MING LEGACY

Monday, 31 October: Course Introduction

No reading assignment

Tuesday, 1 November:

Reading (124 pp.):

Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure* (Berkeley, 1998), 1-124.

Wednesday, 2 November:

Reading (113 pp.):

Brook, 124-237.

Thursday, 3 November:

Reading (76 pp.):

1. Feng Menglong 馮夢龍 (1574-1646), "Jiang Xingge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt" (蔣興哥重會珠珍衫), in Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang trans., *Stories Old and New (Gujin xiaoshuo 古今小說)*; Seattle, 2000), 9-47.
2. Feng, "Shen Xiu Causes Seven Deaths with One Bird" (沈小官一鳥害七命), *Stories Old and New*, 461-474.
3. Brook, 238-262.

Friday, 4 November:

Writing Day: Essays due at 5:00 p.m. in my Box

Assignment: Weekly Essay #1 (15 pts).

WEEK TWO: STATE & SOCIETY IN THE QING

Monday, 7 November:

Reading (116 pp.):

Miyazaki Ichisada 宮崎市定, *China's Examination Hell* (New Haven, 1981).

Tuesday, 8 November:

Reading (103 pp.):

1. Wu Jingzi 吳敬梓 (1701-1754), *The Scholars (Rulin waishi 儒林外史)*, Gladys Yang and Yang Hsien-yi trans. (New York, 1992), pp. 1-51, 178-220.
2. Zhang Ying 張英 (1638-1708), "Remarks on Real Estate" (*Hengchan suoyan 恆產瑣言*, c. 1697), trans. in Hilary J. Beattie, *Land and Lineage in China* (Cambridge, 1979), 140-151.

Wednesday, 8 November:

Reading (118 pp.):

Philip A. Kuhn, *Soulstealers* (Harvard, 1990), 1-118.

Thursday, 9 November:

Reading (113 pp.):

Kuhn, *Soulstealers*, 119-232.

Friday, 10 November:

Writing Day: Essays due at 5:00 p.m. in my Box

Assignment: Weekly Essay #2 (15 pts).

WEEK THREE: CULTURE AND LAW IN THE QING

Monday, 13 November:

Reading (119 pp.):

Shen Fu 沈復 (1763-c.1808), *Six Records of a Floating Life (Fusheng liuji 浮生六記)*, c. 1809; New York, 1983).

Tuesday, 14 November:

Reading (106 pp.):

1. David Johnson, "Popular Values and Beliefs." In Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd edition, vol. 2 (Columbia, 2000), 73-141.
2. Pu Songling 蒲松齡 (1640-1715), *Strange Tales of Liaozhai (Liaozhai zhiyi 聊齋誌異)*, 1740), trans. Lu Yunzhong et. al. (Hong Kong, 1988), 41-43 ("Black Art" 妖術); 57-64 ("Wang Cheng" 王成); 73-78 ("The Painted Skin" 畫皮); 94-107 ("Yingning" 嬰寧); 169-174 ("Magistrate Lu's Daughter" 魯公女); 301-304 ("Dou's Daughter" 竇氏).

Wednesday, 15 November:

Reading (83 pp.):

1. *The Great Qing Code (Da Qing luli 大清律例)*, 1740 ed.), trans. William C. Jones (Oxford, 1994), 33-41 (Names & General Rules 名例律 exc.); 123-136 (REVENUE: Marriage 婚姻): 161-174 (RITES: Sacrifices 祭祀); 237-244 (PUNISHMENT: General Public Disorder and Theft 賊盜: 1); 268-284 (PUNISHMENT: Homicide 人命); 347-353 (PUNISHMENT: Fornication 犯姦); 354-359 (PUNISHMENT: Miscellaneous Offenses 雜犯).
2. Wang Huizu 王輝祖 (1731-1807), excerpts from *Precepts for Local Administrative Officials (Zuozhi yaoyan 佐治藥言)*, 1785), trans. in Sybille van der Sprenkel, *Legal Institutions in Manchu China* (London, 1962), 137-151.

Thursday, 16 November:

Reading (115 pp.):

1. Huang Liuhong 黃六鴻 (1633-c.1705), *A Complete Book Concerning Happiness and Benevolence (Fuhui quanshu 福惠全書)*, 1699), trans. Djang Chu (Arizona, 1984), 140-56; 280-306; 319-351; 431-443.

2. Matthew Sommer, *Sex, Law and Society in Late Imperial China* (Stanford, 2000), 1-29 (Introduction).

Friday, 17 November:

Writing Day: Essays due at 5:00 p.m. in my Box

Assignment: Weekly Essay #3 (15 pts).

WEEK FOUR

Monday, 20 November:

Reading (135 pp.):

Sommer, 30-165 (Chapters 2-4).

Tuesday, 21 November:

Reading (139 pp.):

Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang* (New York, 1979).

Wednesday, 22 November: Final Essay due

ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENTS

Assessment:

Class Participation: 25%

Discussion Presentations: 15%

Weekly Essays (3): 45%

Final Essay: 15%

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class having done the reading and prepared to engage with the instructor, the readings, and other students. Students may miss up to two days of class per block, no questions asked. For every missed class beyond that, the participation grade is lowered by two-thirds (e.g. an A- for participation becomes a B on the third absence and a C+ on the fourth). Participation grades are assessed on the basis of both the quantity and quality of the student's contributions to class discussion. Class begins 9:30 am sharp (If you're going to be ten minutes late, come at 9:20). Laptops are welcome for note-taking; the participation grades of students surfing the internet or downloading music during class will be penalized severely.

Discussion Presentations: Once during the block each student will be responsible for preparing a short class presentation on one of the primary source texts listed below. Presentations should:

- Situate the documents (and their creators) in their larger historical context.
- Connect them to larger issues in Late Imperial Chinese history.
- Initiate the day's discussion.
- Be roughly 10-15 minutes long.

- Be creative *and* rigorous

The format of your presentation is entirely up to you. Please submit a short (2-3 page) précis of the presentation on the day of class. These papers should follow the form and style guidelines of the weekly essays described below. The pertinent discussion sessions are:

11/08: Wu Jingzi, *The Scholars*

11/08: Zhang Ying, *Remarks on Real Estate*

11/13: Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*

11/14: Popular Ritual and Performance

11/14: Pu Songling, *Strange Tales of Liaozhai*

11/15: *The Great Qing Code*

11/16: Huang Lihong, *A Complete Book Concerning Happiness and Benevolence*

Weekly essays: For the first three weeks of block, students are required to write a 5-7 page essay which will be due in my box by 5:00 pm on Friday. The precise topic of each essay is left to the student's discretion. However, essays will be evaluated primarily on the basis of how well they 1) integrate the week's readings and discussions by 2) making an argument concerning a historical issue relevant to those materials.

Final Essay: The final essay for this course will be completed by noon, Wednesday 22 November. Details concerning content and format to come.

Rules for Papers:

Form and Style: All papers should have 1 inch margins, be double-spaced, and use 12 pt, font (preferably Times or Arial/Helvetica). Number pages, even for the two page essays.

Romanization: All papers should use Pinyin Romanization. In directly quoted passages, you may either leave the original Romanization or convert it to Pinyin. For more, see appendix 1.

Titles: All papers *must* have a title, preferably a brilliant one. For more, see appendix 2.

Topics: There will be no essay prompts in this class – part of the challenge of an upper-level class is devising your own.

Lateness: Weekly essays will be docked .6 points for each day late. If you are going to hand in a paper late, make sure to send me an electronic copy. The time-stamp on the e-mail it comes with will be the basis for assessing the late fee.

Citations Use them! As for style, Chicago or MLA is preferable, but not required. However, consistency in citation style *is* required.

Appendix 1: Romanization

There have been several systems for rendering Chinese words into Roman letters in the centuries since Western contact with China began. By the early twentieth century, the standard that emerged was the Wade-Giles system, which is used in several of your texts and was used by the Library of Congress and most U.S. libraries to catalogue Chinese books until very recently. In the 1930s, the Hanyu Pinyin (“Chinese phonetic transcription”) system was developed in Soviet East Asia, and was adopted with some modifications by the People’s Republic of China in the 1950s. When the United States normalized relations with China in 1979, the New York Times adopted pinyin as its standard, and since then all media organizations have followed suit. In the 1990s, the Library of Congress began changing its Wade-Giles records to pinyin, as have most other American libraries.

In general, older books about China (and even, on occasion, new ones by crotchety old scholars) employ the Wade-Giles system. A loose rule of thumb is that if it was published before the 1980s, it will use Wade-Giles; if after, it will use pinyin. Unfortunately, if you have any interest in reading about China, you have to get used to both. The other side of this page presents a conversion chart for your reference.

As this is an upper level course, I expect you to be able to familiar with both systems. Furthermore, **Pinyin is the required form of Romanization for all your papers.** The People’s Republic, the *New York Times* and the Library of Congress all use it; you should too. For your reference, please find below a list of class texts and the Romanization systems they employ.

Brook, <i>Confusions of Pleasure</i> :	Pinyin
Feng, <i>Stories Old & New</i> :	Pinyin
Kuhn, <i>Soulstealers</i>	Wade-Giles
Miyazaki, <i>China’s Examination Hell</i>	Wade-Giles
Wu, <i>The Scholars</i>	Wade-Giles
Zhang, “Remarks on Real Estate	Wade-Giles
Shen, <i>Six Records of a Floating Life</i>	Wade-Giles
Pu, <i>Strange Tales of Liaozhai</i>	Pinyin
<i>The Great Qing Code</i>	Pinyin
Wang, “Precepts for Local Administrative Officials”	Wade-Giles
Huang, <i>A Complete Book Concerning Happiness and Benevolence</i>	Pinyin
Sommers, <i>Sex, Law and Society in Late Imperial China</i>	Pinyin
Spence, <i>The Death of Woman Wang</i>	Wade-Giles

Examples:

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
Feng Menglong	Feng Meng-lung
Wu Jingzi	Wu Ching-tzu
Zhang Ying	Chang Ying
Wang Huizu	Wang Hui-tsu

PINYIN TO WADE-GILES*

Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles
a	a	cong	ts'ung	gong	kung	kei	k'ei
ai	ai	cou	ts'ou	gou	kou	ken	k'en
an	an	cu	ts'u	gu	ku	keng	k'eng
ang	ang	cuan	ts'uan	gua	kuā	kong	k'ung
ao	ao	cui	ts'ui	guai	kuai	kou	k'ou
		cun	ts'un	guan	kuan	ku	k'u
		cuo	ts'o	guang	kuang	kua	k'ua
ba	pa			gui	kuai	kuai	k'uai
bai	pai	da	ta	gun	kun	kuan	k'uan
ban	pan	dai	tai	guo	kuo	kuang	k'uang
bang	pang	dan	tan			kui	k'uei
bao	pao	dang	tang	ha	ha	kun	k'un
bei	pei	dao	tao	hai	hai	kuo	k'uo
ben	pen	de	te	han	han		
beng	peng	deng	teng	hang	hang	la	la
bi	pi	di	ti	hao	hao	lai	lai
bian	pien	dian	tien	he	ho	lan	lan
biao	piao	diao	tiao	hei	hei	lang	lang
bie	pieh	die	tieh	hen	hen	lao	lao
bin	pin	ding	ting	heng	heng	le	le
bing	ping	dou	tou	hou	hou	lei	lei
bo	po	dong	tung	hu	hu	leng	leng
bou	pou	dou	tou	hua	hua	li	li
bu	pu	du	tu	huai	huai	lia	lia
		duan	tuan	huan	huan	lian	lian
ca	ts'a	dui	tui	huang	huang	liang	liang
cai	ts'ai	dun	tun	hui	hui	liao	liao
can	ts'an	duo	to	hun	hun	lie	lieh
can	ts'an			hun	hun	lin	lin
cao	ts'ao			huo	huo	ling	ling
ce	ts'e	e	o			liu	liu
cen	ts'en	en	en	ji	chi	long	lung
ceng	ts'eng	er	erh	jia	chia	lou	lou
cha	ch'a			jian	chien	lu	lu
chai	ch'ai	fa	fa	jiang	chiang	lü	lü
chan	ch'an	fan	fan	jiao	chiao	luan	luan
chang	ch'ang	fang	fang	jie	chieh	luan	luan
chao	ch'ao	fei	fei	jin	chin	lün	lün
che	ch'e	fen	fen	jing	ching	lue	lueh
chen	ch'en	feng	feng	jiong	chiung	lun	lun
cheng	ch'eng	fo	fo	jiu	chiu	luo	lo
chi	ch'ih	fou	fou	ju	chü		
chong	ch'ung	fu	fu	juan	chüan	ma	ma
chou	ch'ou			jue	chüeh	mai	mai
chu	ch'u	ga	ka	jun	chün	man	man
chua	ch'ua	gai	kai			mang	mang
chuai	ch'uai	gan	kan	ka	k'a	mao	mao
chuan	ch'uan	gang	kang	kai	k'ai	mei	mei
chuang	ch'uang	gao	kao	kan	k'an	men	men
chui	ch'ui	ge	ko	kang	k'ang	meng	meng
chun	ch'un	gei	kei	kao	k'ao	mi	mi
chuo	ch'o	gen	ken	ke	k'o	mian	mien
ci	tz'u	geng	keng				

PINYIN TO WADE-GILES

Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Wade-Giles
miao	miao	qi	ch'i	shuo	shuo	ya	ya
mie	mieh	qia	ch'ia	si	ssu	yai	yai
min	min	qian	ch'ien	song	sung	yan	yen
ming	ming	qiang	ch'iang	sou	sou	yang	yang
miu	miu	qiao	ch'iao	su	su	yao	yao
mo	mo	qie	ch'ieh	suan	suan	ye	yeh
mou	mou	qin	ch'in	sui	sui	yi	i
mu	mu	qing	ch'ing	sun	sun	yin	yin
		qiong	ch'ung	suo	so	ying	ying
		qiu	ch'iu			yong	yung
na	na	qu	ch'ü			you	yu
nai	nai	quan	ch'üan	ta	t'a	yu	yü
nan	nan	que	ch'üeh	tai	t'ai	yuan	üan
nang	nang	qun	ch'un	tan	t'an	yue	yüeh
nao	nao			tang	t'ang	yun	yün
nei	nei	ran	jan	tao	t'ao		
nen	nen	rang	jang	te	t'e		
neng	neng	rao	jao	teng	t'eng		
ni	ni	re	je	ti	t'i		
nian	nien	ren	jen	tian	t'ien	za	tsa
niang	niang	reng	jeng	tiao	t'iao	zai	tsai
niao	niao	ri	jih	tie	t'ieh	zan	tsan
nie	nieh	rong	jung	ting	t'ing	zang	tsang
nin	nin	rou	jou	tong	t'ung	zao	tsao
ning	ning	ru	ju	tou	t'ou	ze	tse
niu	niu	ruan	juan	tu	t'u	zei	tsei
nong	nung	rui	jui	tuan	t'uan	zen	tsen
nou	nou	run	jun	tui	t'ui	zeng	tseng
nu	nu	ruo	jou	tun	t'un	zha	cha
nü	nü			tu	t'o	zhai	chai
nuan	nuan	sa	sa			zhan	chan
nue	nüeh	sai	sai	wa	wa	zhang	chang
nuo	no	san	san	wai	wai	zhao	chao
		sang	sang	wan	wan	zhe	che
		sao	sao	wang	wang	zhen	chen
		se	se	wei	wei	zheng	cheng
		sen	sen	wen	wen	zhi	chih
		seng	seng	weng	weng	zhong	chung
pa	p'a	sha	sha	wo	wo	zhou	chou
pai	p'ai	shai	shai	wu	wu	zhu	chu
pan	p'an	shan	shan			zhua	chua
pang	p'ang	shang	shang	xi	hsi	zhuai	chuai
pao	p'ao	shao	shao	xia	hsia	zhuan	chuan
pei	p'ei	she	she	xian	hsien	zhuang	chuang
pen	p'en	shen	shen	xiang	hsiang	zhui	chui
peng	p'eng	sheng	sheng	xiao	hsiao	zhun	chun
pi	p'i	shih	shih	xie	hsieh	zhuo	cho
pian	p'ien	shou	shou	xin	hsin	zhuo	cho
piao	p'iao	shu	shu	xing	hsing	zi	tzu
pie	p'ieh	shua	shua	xiong	hsiong	zong	tsung
pin	p'in	shuai	shuai	xiu	hsiu	zou	tsou
ping	p'ing	shuan	shuan	xu	hsü	zu	tsu
po	p'o	shuang	shuang	xuan	hsüan	zuan	tsuan
pou	p'ou	shui	shui	xue	hsüeh	zui	tsui
pu	p'u	shun	shun	xun	hsün	zun	tsun
						zuo	tsuo

*From *People's Republic of China: Administrative Atlas* (Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency, 1975), pp. 46-47.