

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

HSTAS 453

Autumn, 2010

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Office Hours:
Weds. 1:30-3:20

HSTAS 453 is a course in the political, economic and social history of late imperial China, 1300-1900. The course will begin with the reassertion of Chinese power in East Asian, and conclude with the decisive defeat of the Chinese Empire by the Japanese. Topics to be discussed will include the development of authority and bureaucracy in the late imperial Chinese government; sixteenth century social, economic and intellectual developments in China and how the Chinese responded to them; the conquest of China by the Manchus in the seventeenth century; and the challenges to the Chinese order posed by western commerce and military might in the nineteenth century. Wherever possible Chinese developments will be treated in a comparative world-historical context. Readings will include translated primary sources and monographic materials.

The course will meet three times a week, T. and Thu. from 3:30-5:20. Course lectures will provide an overview of the history of the period; in addition, students will be expected to discuss the primary materials assigned, during the class sessions either on Tuesday or Thursday. On the attached course schedule, the readings for each week of the class are printed below the lecture topics for the week. Students are expected to have done the readings by the end of the week for which they are assigned. Primary source are marked with an asterisk on the syllabus; they are available electronically, and in a Xerox packet, which is on reserve at Odegaard Library both in paper and electronic form. Books by Mote and Crossley are available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

There will be two take-home tests in the class and a final examination. The first take home will be distributed 2i October, and must be returned no later than 5:00 on 28 October. The second will be distributed on 16 November and must be returned no later than 5:00 on 23 November. The answers to the take-home tests should be no longer than five typed pages, double spaced, and will be graded on the quality of the argument made, the range and accuracy of the citations to readings and class lectures, and the extent to which the questions posed are actually answered. There will be a final exam, administered i*n the classroom on Dec. 14th from 4:30 to 6:20. Each of the take home

tests will count for 30% of the final grade; the final exam will count for 40%.
Arrangements for W course credit will be made, if needed.

Course Schedule

I. The Yuan Dynasty

Th. 30 Sept: Course Introduction: The Steppe vs. the Sown
T. 5 Oct.: Khubilai Khan

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China, pp. 403-516
**Paul Kahn, editor and translator, The Secret History of the Mongols, pp. 13-21;
44-51; and 166-181.

II. The Ming Conquest of China

Th. 7 Oct., Ming Taizu's Conquest of China
T. 12 Oct.: The Yongle Reign

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China, pp. 517-622.
**Ma Huan, "The Overall Survey of the Ocean's Shores," trans. By Feng Chen-
chun and J. G. Mills, pp. 86-96; 137-146; and 173-178
**Zhu Yuanzhang, "The Placard of People's Instructions," trans by Edward
Farmer, in Zhu Yuanzhang and Early Ming Legislation, pp. 197-207
Louise Levathes, When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon
Throne, pp 57-154.

III. Wang Yangming and his Followers

Th. 14 Oct: Chinese Civil Service Examination System
T 19 Oct.: Wang Yangming and The Growth of Individualism in the Late Ming

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China. 622-684.

**Wang Yangming, "Inquiry on the Great Learning", and "Instructions for Practical Living, trans. by Wing-tsit Chan, in Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy, pp. 654-691.

IV. Social and Economic Change in the Late Ming

Th. 21 Oct.: The Growth of Commerce

T: 26 Superfluous Things

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China pp. 723-812.

**Feng Menglong, "The Pearl Sewn Shirt," in Cyril Birch, editor and translator, Stories from a Ming Collection, pp. pp. 37-97.

FIRST TAKE HOME

DISTRIBUTED: 21 October

DUE: 28 October

V. The Fall of the Ming

Th: 28 Oct. The Collapse of the Ming

T. 2 Nov.: The Manchu "Conquest" of China

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China, pp. 813-840

**Lynn A. Struve, Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm, pp. 1-48, 58-66
"A Survivor of Beijing 'Settles his Thoughts,' "Horrible Beyond Description: The Massacre at Yangzhou," and "Nanjing Changes Hands," (Testimony of Yao Wenzhi)

VI. First Century of Qing Rule

Th. 4 Nov: The Three Pillars of Qing Rule and the Kangxi Reign

T. 9 Nov.: The Yongzheng Emperor's Administrative Tinkering

Readings:

Mote, Imperial China, pp.841-948.

**Lynn A. Struve, Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm, pp. 179-203 “Soaring Phoenix or Caged Panther: A Father and Son Choose Sides”

**DeBary, Sources of the Chinese Tradition, pp.586-612 – Texts by Huang Tsung-hsi, Wang Fu-chih and Ku Yen-wu

VII. The Late Eighteenth Century Empire

Th. 16 Nov.: The Qianlong Emperor’s Misleading Glories

T. 23 Nov. Eighteenth Century Indian Summer?

Readings:

Crossley, Pamela, The Wobbling Pivot, pp. 21-65

Guy, R. Kent, The Emperor’s Four Treasuries, pp. 157-200, “Blowing Back the Fur and Examining the Faults”

SECOND TAKE HOME

DISTRIBUTED: 16 November

DUE: 23 November

IX. The Rebellions of Mid-Century

T . 30 Nov.: Millenarian Rebellion in China

Th. 2 Dec.: Hong Xiuquan and the Taipings

Readings:

Crossley, Pamela, The Wobbling Pivot, pp. 70-132.

**Wm Theodore deBary, editor, Sources of the Chinese Tradition, pp 686-704:

Documents of the Taiping Movement. .

IX. The Foreign Challenge

T. 7 Dec. The Opium War

Th. 9 Dec.: The Foreign Affairs Movement and the Era of Good Feeling

Readings:

Pamela Crossley, The Wobbling Pivot, pp.133-155.

**Wm Theodore deBary, editor, Sources of the Chinese Tradition, pp. 717-735,
Proposals for Reform in the Nineteenth Century

Final Exam: Tuesday 14 December, 4:30-6:20.