

**History 276/ASLC 276: PERSPECTIVES ON CHINESE HISTORY**  
**Amherst College, Fall 2016**  
**Tues-Thurs 2:30-3:50**

Professor Jerry Dennerline  
Office: Chapin 12  
E-mail: jpdennerline@amherst.edu

Office hours: Tues/Thurs  
11:30-12:00, 1:00-2:00  
And Wednesday by appointment  
Phone: 542-2486 (office hours)

**Course Materials**

Available for purchase at Amherst Books and on reserve:

*History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*, by Paul Cohen.

*Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History*, by John E. Wills, Jr.

Additional required readings are either included in a Course Packet, parts I and II, available at the History Department office in Chapin 11, on E-reserve or on line as indicated in the syllabus. The films are streamed and can be viewed from computers on the Amherst campus; DVD and cassette versions are also on reserve at Frost Library.

**Course Description and Requirements**

In this course we will suspend conventional, European-inspired historical prejudices as we survey a variety of approaches to understanding China's long pre-modern history and its legacies. These approaches are introduced as we consider a variety of historical topics, beginning with different perspectives on the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, continuing with perspectives on Confucianism, empire, law, religion, economic and social organization, the roles of women, economic development, and global interaction, ending with reflections on culture, state, religion, international relations, and the rule of law. With reference to specific cases, students will develop critical reading, analytical, historiographical, discussion and writing skills. During the course we will test our own perspectives on how one thing leads to another and consider how modern views have tended to highlight or obscure the process. Sources include historical narratives and biographies, classical texts, philosophical and religious essays, inscriptions, social and legal instructions, comparative historical analyses, fiction, and film.

The **first requirement** is to read the assigned material and view videos before class in preparation for lecture and discussion. If you know that you will be unable to attend a class, inform me of the reason in advance. **Regular attendance and completion of all writing assignments is required; repeated absence will lower the grade; and plagiarism or other serious violation of the honor code will result in failure of the course.** The grade will be based on the following:

- 1) **Weeks 2-8: Three short papers, (3-4 pages) due Sept 26, Oct 12, and Oct 31 (15% each).**
- 2) **Weeks 9-11: one short write-up**, based on student comments and discussions for one of these weeks, due by **Monday of the following week (15%).**
- 3) **Weeks 12-13: join classmates to lead one class discussion (15%).**
- 4) One **term paper** on topic of your choice designed in consultation with the professor, **7-10 pages, due Dec 22 (25%).**

**WEEK 1**

**Tues, Sept 6 Time and Space I: How Do Things Come Together?**

**Thurs, Sept 8 First Perspective on Boxers: National and World History**

*The Boxer Uprising: Pictorial Stories of the Chinese Peasants' Resistance against Western Powers in Contemporary History* (Singapore, 1993) [packet].

**WEEK 2**

**Tues, Sept 13 Second Perspective on Boxers: What is a Historical Event**

Paul Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*, Part I: "Event," pp 3-56.

**Thurs, Sept 15 Perspectives on the Ground**

Cohen, *History in Three Keys*, Part II: "Experience," 59-118, (146-72).

Ning Lao T'ai-t'ai and ida Pruitt, *Daughter of Han*, "Prologue," 1-4; "Together Again, 1899" and "With the Missionaries, 1899-1902" 142-52. [E-reserve].

**WEEK 3**

**Tues, Sept 20 Global Perspective and Myth: Part I**

Dennerline, "Modern East Asia: A History," 36-54 [packet].

Cohen, 211-60: History as myth, New Culture, Anti-imperialism

**Thurs, Sept 22 Global Perspective and Myth: Part II**

Dennerline, "Modern East Asia: A History," 54-69 [packet].

Cohen, 119-45. 261-88.

**First paper due by 12 noon, Monday, Sept 26.**

**WEEK 4**

**Tues, Sept 27 Confucius: Man and Myth**

John E. Wills, Jr., *Mountain of Fame*, Yu and Confucius, 3-32

"Confucius" (2010). Film streamed on line for this course. Two copies on reserve at Frost Library: PN1997 .K66494.

**Thurs, Sept 29 Confucius: Text and Context**

*The Original Analects*, by E. Bruce Brooks and A. Taeko Brooks, "Preface" excerpt; *Analects*, selections: pp 72-75, 101-105, 110-11, specific verses assigned [packet].

Kiri Paramore, "'Civil Religion' and Confucianism: Japan's Past, China's Present, and the Current Boom in Scholarship on Confucianism," *JAS* 74.2 (2015), 269-82 (E-res).

**WEEK 5****Tues, Oct 4 Confucianism I: Mencius, Heaven, and the Way**

*Mencius* 2A.6, 7A.15, 1A.7, 1B.6, 1B.8, 1B10-11 [packet].

*Laozi* selections: "Introduction" pp 8-10; Chapters I, IV, V, XXV, XXXVIII, LVII (pp 57, 60-61, 82, 99, 118) [all in packet]

**Thurs, Oct 6 Confucianism II: Xunzi, Ritual, and the Law**

*Hsün Tzu*, "Regulations of a King;" pp. 33-56; "A Discussion of Rites," pp. 89-112 [pac].

*Han Fei Tzu*, selections [packet].

**WEEK 6****FALL BREAK (Mon classes meet on Tuesday this week)**

**Second Paper Due by 12 noon, Wednesday, Oct 12.**

**Thurs, Oct 13 Perspectives on Empire I: Emperor and Film-maker**

Wills, "The First Emperor," 33-50.

"The Emperor and the Assassin," film by Chen Kaige (1999), Streamed on line for this course. One copy on reserve, PN1997 .E4447 VideoDVD)

**WEEK 7****Tues, Oct 18 Perspectives on Empire II: Historians and Others**

Wills, Sima Qian and Wang Mang, 51-89.

Karen Turner, "Sage Kings and Laws in the Chinese and Greek Traditions," in *Heritage of China*, ed. Paul Ropp, pp. 96-111 [packet];

Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, "Biographies of Ch'ü Yüan (Qu Yuan) and Master Chia (Jia Yi) [packet]."

**Thurs, Oct 20 Time and Space II: When Things Fall Apart**

Wills, Ban Zhao and Zhuge Liang, 90-113.

*Records of the Grand Historian*, "The Hsiung-nu," excerpts [packet];

Thomas J. Barfield, "The Hsiung-nu Imperial Confederacy: Organizations and Foreign Policy," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 41.1, pp. 45-61 [E-reserve].

**WEEK 8****Tues, Oct 25 Cosmology Wars I: Inside-out and Outside-in**

Wills, Hui Neng and Empress Wu, 114-48.

H. Miyakawa, "Local Cults around Mount Lu," in *Facets of Taoism*, excerpts [packet].

Arthur F. Wright, "Biography of the Nun An-ling-shou," in *Studies in Chinese Buddhism* (Yale 1990), pp. 69-72 [packet].

**Thurs, Oct 27 Cosmology Wars II: From Top to Bottom**

*Yijing* (The Book of Changes, tr. James Legge), Hexagrams (handout); #24 “Fu” (Returning); “Xici” (The Great Treatise) Part I, 1-5. <http://ctext.org/book-of-changes>; <http://ctext.org/book-of-changes/fu>; <http://ctext.org/book-of-changes/xi-ci-shang>  
 “Hui-yüan,” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, ed. W.T. deBary [packet].  
 “The Story of Hui-yuan,” in *Ballads and Stories from Tun-huang*, tr. A. Waley [packet].

**Third Paper Due by noon, Monday, Oct 31.****WEEK 9****Tues, Nov 1 Culture and Politics: Scholars, Soldiers, State**

Wills, Su Dongpo and Yue Fei 149-80.  
 Daniel Gardner, *Chu Hsi: Learning to Be a Sage*, pp 35-56, and “Zhu Xi on Spirit Beings,” tr. Gardner, in *Religions of China in Practice*, Intro, #2, #4, #12, #21, #24, #29, #31-35 [packet].

**Thurs, Nov 3 Confucian Learning Revisited: Opening or Closing the Mind?**

Wills, Qiu Chuji and Wang Yangming, 181-215.  
*Great Learning* and *Doctrine of the Mean*, excerpts [packet].

**Write-up Option #1 due by noon on Monday.****WEEK 10****Tues, Nov 8 Qing Political Economy: What Makes the World Modern?**

William Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, 11-30, 63-89 [E-reserve].  
*China Media Project*, 22 April 2015 (<http://cmp.hku.hk/2015/04/22/38664/>): “A righteous view of history”  
 Albert Feuerwerker, “Chinese Economic History,” in *Heritage*, 224-41 [packet].

**Thurs, Nov 10 Ritual and Law: What Makes the State Modern?**

Huang Liu-hung, *A Complete Book concerning Happiness and Benevolence: A Manual for Local Magistrate in Seventeenth-Century China*, excerpts (48 pages of text), pp 91-98, 107-25, 512-15, 547-53, 251-53, 258-64, 278-79, 343-51 [packet].  
 Ya-pei Kuo, “Redeploying Confucius: The Imperial State Dreams of the Nation, 1902-1911,” in *Chinese Religiosities*, ch 2: 65-84 [E-reserve].  
 Wang Zhenmin, “Constitutional Politics: The Road to Permanent Peace and Stability or How the Communist Party of China Can Escape from the Historical Cycle,” *Tsinghua China Law Review* 6.1 (2013), 1-22 [packet].

**Write-up Option #2 due by noon on Monday.**

**WEEK 11****Tues, Nov 15 Women, Family, Feet: Do We Have a History?**

Patricia Ebrey, "Women, Marriage, and the Family," in *Heritage of China*, 197-223 [pac].  
 Ning Lao T'ai-t'ai, *Daughter of Han*, 55-73 [E-reserve].

**Thurs, Nov 17 Women, Family, Feet: Have We had a Revolution?**

Ning Lao T'ai-t'ai, *Daughter of Han*, 240-249 [E-reserve].  
 Carma Hinton, et al, "Small Happiness" (55 min film, 1984) Frost Media DVD,  
 HQ1768.S6 [Video reserve]  
 Gail Hershatter, "Disquiet in the House of Gender," *JAS* 71.4 (Nov 2012): 873-894. [E-reserve]

**Write-up Option #3 due by noon on Monday.**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK****WEEK 12****Tues, Nov 29 Time and Space III: China at Sea**

Edward Dreyer. *Zheng He: China and the Oceans in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433*, pp 1-9, 180-93, Appendix I-III. I. *Ming Shi* biography of Zheng He (1739); II. *Liujiagang Inscription of 1431* – both inscriptions are basically to Tianhou; III. *Changle Inscription of 1431* [packet].  
 Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat*, Chapter 4, "Geography Lessons," 84-116 [E-reserve].  
 Carl A. Trocki, "A Drug on the Market: Opium and the Chinese in Southeast Asia, 1750-1850," *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, 1.2 (Nov 2005), 147-59 [E-reserve].

**Thurs, Dec 1 The Sea as History and Myth**

Wills, Zheng Chenggong, 216-30.  
 Tonio Andrade, "Koxinga's Conquest of Taiwan in Global History: Reflections on the Occasion of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," *Late Imperial China* 33.1 (2010), 122-40 [E-R].

**WEEK 13****Tues Dec 6 Pre-revolution: Are We Modern Yet?**

Wills, Hong Xiuquan, the Heavenly King, 259-73.  
 Qian Mu, "Reminiscences on My Parents at the Age of 80," in Dennerline, *Qian Mu and the World of Seven Mansions*, 115-49 [packet].

**Thurs, Dec 8 Pre-revolution: Now Are We Modern Yet?**

Wills, Liang Qichao, 274-300.  
 Liang Qichao, "Notes from a Journey to the New Continent" (1903), in *Land Without Ghosts* [packet].  
 S.C. Yin, "The Proposed Constitution for China," *The Straits Chinese Magazine* 10.3 (Sept 1906), 103-106 [packet].

**WEEK 14**

**Tues, Dec 13    Conclusions: TBA**

**Final Paper Due by 12 noon, Thursday, Dec 22.**