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

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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

WEEK 2

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

Thurs, Sept 15  Perspectives on the Ground

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].

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

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
“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
H. Miyakawa, “Local Cults around Mount Lu,” in Facets of Taoism, excerpts [packet].
(Yale 1990), pp. 69-72 [packet].
Thurs, Oct 27  Cosmology Wars II: From Top to Bottom
   “Hui-yuan,” 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].


WEEK 9

Tues, Nov 1  Culture and Politics: Scholars, Soldiers, State
   Wills, Su Dongpo and Yue Fei 149-80.

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].

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

Write-up Option #2 due by noon on Monday.
WEEK 11

Tues, Nov 15 Women, Family, Feet: Do We have a History?

Thurs, Nov 17 Women, Family, Feet: Have We had a Revolution?
Ning Lao T’ai-t’ai, *Daughter of Han*, 240-249 [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].

Thurs, Dec 1 The Sea as History and Myth
Tonio Andrade, “Koxinga’s Conquest of Taiwan in Global History: Reflections on the Occasion of the 350th 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].
WEEK 14

Tues, Dec 13  Conclusions: TBA

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