History 410: Cities in Late Imperial China

Spring 2003  Ina Asim
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Office Hours: UH 11:00-12:00

Description

This course will give a survey of different categories of Chinese cities in imperial China. After introducing the ritual and ceremonial functions of capitals from antiquity to the Song (960-1279) we will study the development of urbanization as seen in the capitals, cosmopolitan economic centers, and market towns of Late Imperial China. Thus we will become acquainted with China’s important centers of governmental power and economic thrive as well as with the relevant arguments of the theoretical discussion in recent studies on urban history.

In this seminar style course heavy emphasis will be placed on the reading assignments and their discussion in class. Therefore it is required that all participants study the respective material carefully. Be prepared to discuss the questions that will be posted for the sessions.

Requirements for Undergraduate Students:
- Reading of assigned materials
- Regular attendance of lectures and participation in discussions
- Midterm and final exams
- One term paper

Grading:
- Attendance, discussion participation: 20%
- Midterm (February 6th) and final exam (March 20): each 25% (total 50 %)
- You will have to write a term paper of 8 – 10 pages on a topic of your choice (30%).

The paper should be based on the material of the course readings as well as further primary and secondary sources available in Knight Library. In week 5 you will provide a draft of your topic which consists of:
1. the title and a short description of your topic,
2. an introduction of the main sources which you will consult in order to answer the questions raised by your topic,
3. the bibliographical data of the sources you intend to use.

The paper is due in week 9 in order to avoid delays and collisions with preparations for the finals. Papers handed in late will be accepted only with documented medical justification.
All quotations and paraphrases must be documented properly. This includes webpages you might plan to consult. The complete URL webaddress of any webpage used is mandatory. For correct
Requirements for Graduate Students

Please prepare a three two five page, double-spaced, book review of each of the three books of your choice. The list of reading materials (see below) will help you to select books for review. There is an additional list available that contains research articles in Chinese. Reviews are due on the dates given in the course outline.

In your reviews you should demonstrate a command of the content of the book and the sources the author relies on. Explain the objective of the main thesis developed in the book and the methodology applied by the author. Consult as many professional reviews in relevant periodicals for Asian Studies (Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Journal of Asian Studies, T'oung Pao etc.) as possible but cite and acknowledge wherever you refer to them. Reading reviews by other authors will help you to place the book in its historical context and guides you to express your own observations.

As a general outline when preparing the review you can follow the pattern given below. Add other important information that will enhance the understanding of the reader of your review whenever further aspects of the book need to be covered.

1. Bibliographical data
2. Summary of content / summary of author’s argument
3. Sources and methodology
4. Most valuable contribution to the topic
5. Most important shortcomings and questions that are left unanswered
6. Your suggestions (for comparisons with other works by the same author/ other authors; further reading; improvements for future editions; regarding the audience of the book etc.)

Reading Materials:
The following texts are available at Mother Kali’s bookstore on 13th street:


A course packet is available from
The Copy Shop 539 East 13th (just across Patterson).
Booklist
A bibliography of relevant literature that may be useful for your papers will be handed out on the first day of the course. For all books that are available in Knight Library the call number is listed. Books on reserve are marked.

Course Outline

Week 1
04/1 U 1. Introduction
04/3 H 2. Ideals of City Planning in Chinese Antiquity
  Reading: Southall 125-158 (packet).

Week 2
04/8 U 3. Capitals of the Early Empire: Xianyang, Chang’an, Luoyang
  Reading: Heng 1-66.

04/10 H 4. Chang’an and Luoyang during the Middle Empire
  Reading: Heng 66-116.

Week 3
04/15 U 5. Cities and Their Hinterland
  Reading: Skinner 253-273 (on reserve)

04/17 H 6. The Development of an Urban Commodity Economy in the Later Empire
  1. Kaifeng
  Reading: Heng 116-182

Week 4
04/22 U 7. 2. Hangzhou
  Reading: Gernet 13-58 (on reserve).

04/24 H 8. Seaports – Centers of Trade and Education
  1. Quanzhou
  Reading: Heng 183-209.

Week 5
04/29 U 9. 3. Canton
  Reading: Grimm 475-498 (in Skinner, on reserve).

05/01 H 10. MIDTERM (covers lectures, sections, and readings of weeks 1-5)
  Please don’t forget to bring a green books!
### Week 6

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>11. The ‘Ideal’ City – The Yuan Capital Dadu</td>
<td><em>Reading:</em> Wu 50-61 (packet).</td>
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<td>05/08</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>12. The Organization of Trade in Ningbo</td>
<td><em>Reading:</em> Shiba 391-439 (in Skinner, on reserve).</td>
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### Week 7

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<td>05/13</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>13. Ming City Planning:</td>
<td>1. Nanjing</td>
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<td><em>Reading:</em> Mote 103-153 (in Skinner, on reserve).</td>
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<td>05/15</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>14. 2. Beijing</td>
<td><em>Reading:</em> Wu 66-80 (packet).</td>
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<td>05/29</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>18. The Early Years of Shanghai</td>
<td><em>Reading:</em> Cooke Johnson 151-181, Elvin 441-473 (in Skinner, on reserve)</td>
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### Week 10

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<td><em>Reading:</em> Gaubatz 45-62 (packet).</td>
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<td>06/05</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>20. 2. Hohhot, Urumqi</td>
<td><em>Reading:</em> Gaubatz 62-84 (packet).</td>
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### Week 11

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<td>06/10</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8.00 Final Exam</td>
<td>Please don’t forget to bring green books!</td>
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