

History 379/Asian Studies 340: Later Imperial China

Later Imperial China: A Sensory History

Instructor: Carla Nappi

Email: carla.nappi@ubc.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-11 & by appointment, Buchanan Tower 1109

Class Hours: Tu & Th 11-12.30, Buchanan B215

This course explores the history of China from the Tang empire through the mid-Qing dynasty. Late imperial China is a fascinating historical period. The course is devoted to helping students understand how to creatively and rigorously interpret its primary documents (including texts, artifacts, and, where possible, sensations) alongside the best of recent historical writing about Chinese history. Rather than taking the existence of a timeless and monolithic “China” for granted, we will explore the various ways in which late imperial lands and peoples have been formed and re-formed in order to situate the period within broader narratives of global history. Students will gain experience in the art and techniques of advanced historical analysis, using both traditional and non-traditional sources. Fun will be had. Undue stress, to the extent possible, will be avoided. Deep thoughts will be both conceived, and put on paper, by you. Bad jokes about *The Manchu Anatomy* will be made.

Readings

The readings for the course include short pieces available on WebCT and the following four books, all of which are both on reserve at Koerner (the library, not the graduate pub) and available for purchase at the UBC bookstore:

Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*

Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang*

Mark Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong: Son of Heaven, Man of the World*

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*

I will often hand out a Weekly Guide that will serve as a roadmap to each week’s material and assignments. Read it closely.

Grading and Requirements

To do well in the course, you must:

1. Come to class. Attendance will form a significant part of your grade, and The Management will be practicing Random Acts of Attendance-Taking. More on this later.

2. Complete the readings by the time indicated in the syllabus! Stay awake during class! Come to class having thought about the material, made notes of what interested or perplexed you, and ready to actively discuss it with your instructor and colleagues! Laugh at The Management's jokes!
3. Submit thoughtful weekly thinkpieces, thoughtfully, to WebCT on time (and thoughtfully). Avoid, "I thought Woman Wang was cool. The End." kinds of thinkpieces. They need not be more than a paragraph or so, but some brain-muscle into it.
4. Complete all of the written assignments on time: the four short quizzes, a take-home midterm examination, and a final portfolio assignment.

The grading will be assessed as follows:

Participation online and in class (including thinkpieces and attendance):	30%
Quizzes (map quiz, date quiz, and 2 reading quizzes):	20%
Take-home midterm exam:	25%
Final portfolio, revision of 5 thinkpieces plus introduction:	25%

The Importance of Checking Email

IT IS VITAL that you check your email regularly, as email is the primary medium I will use to contact you about the course. Make sure ASAP that The Management has a current email address for you, and that you check, daily, your official email account on record with UBC.

Thinkpieces

You are required to post a thinkpiece almost every week **by Wednesday at noon**, as indicated on the syllabus. This is very, very important. Think of your thinkpieces as spaces to think about the week's readings and issues before you come to discussion. They will not receive individual letter-grades, but they will collectively form a significant part of your participation grade. Some TPs will have an assigned topic, and some will be completely free-form. There is no required length, and you should use the space as creatively as you'd like: raise questions, argue with the authors you've read, work through something in the readings that particularly excited or troubled you, etc. You should be careful and thoughtful in your writing and show that you've done the assigned reading. Avoid thinkpieces that merely state "XYZ was interesting." Wherever possible, cite the course materials. (Check out the thinkpiece rubric for a guide to what you should be shooting for.) Aside from that, the format is up to you. Be creative. Take risks. Use The Force.

You're not required to respond to other students' posts, but please feel welcome to!

The Course Website on WebCT

The course WebCT site is our virtual classroom for the semester. It is where you will post your thinkpieces, where our online course sessions will take place, and where I will post the short reading assignments and lecture handouts. Log in with your CWL. Click on Tab for "HIST 379 - 201 - Later Imperial China - 2010W – Nappi." The "Course Tools" on the left side of the page lists all of the course components, including the discussion boards (in "Discussions"),

course readings (in “Course Content,” in folders that correspond to each week of the course), and other handouts (also in “Course Content”).

Posting on the WebCT Board

1. Click “Discussions”
2. Click on the topic for the discussion for the week (“Week 2,” etc.)
3. To post a new thread, click the bar for “Create Message” and follow the directions. You can also post attachments.

And so on, and so on. Lather, rinse, repeat. If you have trouble logging in with your CWL, ask the Vista Helpdesk using the online form or telephone number available here:

<http://www.elearning.ubc.ca/lms/student-resources/#getting-help>

If you have other questions about using the website, ask Nappi.

How Class Will Go

Keeping up with the weekly reading and assignments, and thinking deeply about them, is **absolutely integral** to success in this class. You will work hard, you will smell odd things, and at the end of the term you will hopefully have found a path into the study of late imperial Chinese history that excites you. You will get as much out of the course as you put into it.

Each course session will include **a mixture of lecture and group discussion of the reading** material due for that class meeting. You are expected to come to class having done the reading, having thought about it, and being willing to talk about it with the group.

You’ll notice that some sessions are labeled “[Online]”: for those sessions, we won’t meet in person, but our course will instead move online, because we are a hip and modern group and we are experimenting with the possibilities of a hybrid classroom. For these sessions, even though we won’t meet in person you **must still participate online by posting at least twice!** That will count as your course participation for the day. We’ll talk more about this over the course of the term.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is bad, and makes The Management put on her grumpy pants and use both angry-eyebrow and frowny-face icons on her internal mind-screen.

I expect all work in this class to be your own, and assignments found to be plagiarized will receive a failing grade. Do not cut-and-paste from websites, do not copy others’ words or ideas without citing the source, and do not hand in work that you have also handed in (or will hand in) for another class. Familiarize yourself with UBC’s definitions of and policies regarding plagiarism: <http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.html>, and come talk to me if you have any questions about this, at any time. So say we all.

Lateness and Absences

You are expected to attend all class sessions, and attendance will form a part of your participation grade. The Management practices Random Acts of Attendance-Taking in lecture,

so consider yourself forewarned. All students are allowed two unexcused absences, but three or more absences (including absences online during our Online classes) will start to directly impact your grade. Late assignments will be penalized as follows: (1) No late thinkpieces will be accepted, (2) The midterm exam will be docked 5 points per day until you hand it in, and (3) No late final portfolios will be accepted.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE LOOK HERE

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTIONS: SENSING LATER IMPERIAL CHINA Tu 01.04

SMELL

FISHY Th 01.06

No readings due!

MUSK Tu 01.11

Reading due in class:

1. CHOOSE TWO: Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*: “The Merchant’s Tale” (27-54), “The Soldier’s Tale” (55-75), and “The Horseman’s Tale” (76-94)
2. Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, “Chapter 5: China’s Golden Age (589-755),” 191-219

Week 2 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 01.12 at noon

CAMPHOR Th 01.13

Reading due:

1. Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*: “The Princess’s Tale” (95-112) and “The Courtesan’s Tale” (138-154)
2. “The Dancing Horses of Xuanzang’s Court” (123-124)

INCENSE Tu 01.18

Reading due:

1. Han Yu (768-824), “A Memorial on the Relic of the Buddha” (355-358)
2. Ballads and Stories from Dunhuang (1078-1110)
3. CHOOSE TWO: Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*: “The Monk’s Tale” (113-137), “The Nun’s Tale” (155-173), and “The Artist’s Tale” (206-222)

Week 3 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 01.19 at noon

PERFUME Th 01.20

No reading due, but we will read selections from Tang poets in class

In class: Map Quiz!

Look Here The Management reserves the right to alter this as necessary to maximize total learning and enjoyment.

TASTE

SWEET

Tu 01.25

Reading due:

1. Hansen, "Chapter 7: Coming to Terms With Money: The Song Dynasty (960-1276)," 260-297
2. Li Qingzhao's Epilogue to *Records on Metal and Stone* (591-596)
3. Hong Mai, "Women and the Problems They Create" (164-168)

Week 4 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 01.26 at noon

BITTER

Th 01.27

Reading due:

1. Su Shi (1037-1101), "Parable of the Sun" (388-389)
2. Zhu Xi (1130-1200), Conversations with his Disciples (172-177)
3. Wang Anshi selections (609-628)

DRUNKEN

Tu 02.01

Reading due:

1. Meng Yuanlao, *A Dream of Splendors Past in the Eastern Capital* 1117-1125 (405-422) or "The Attractions of the Capital" (178-185)
2. Ouyang Xiu (1007-1072), "An Account of the Pavilion of the Drunken Old Man" (613-614)
3. Su Shi, Shi Cang-shu's "Hall of Drunken Ink, 1068" (640-641)

Week 5 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 02.02 at noon

SALTY

Th 02.03

Reading due:

1. Hansen, "Chapter 9: The Mongols ca. 1200-1368" (334-367)

SOUR

Tu 02.08

Reading due:

1. Ni Zan, *Cloud Forest Hall Collection of Rules for Drinking and Eating* (selection, 444-455)
2. *A Soup for the Qan* (selection)

In class: Reading Quiz 1

Week 6 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 02.09 at noon

SOUND

CLANG CLANG

Th 02.10

Readings due:

1. Hansen, "Chapter 10: Continuing the War Against the Mongols: The Ming Dynasty 1368-1644" (368-407)

TICK TOCK

Tu 02.22

No readings due!

Week 7 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 02.23 at noon

CLAP CLAP

Th 02.24

Readings due:

1. Schools and Civil Service in the Ming Dynasty (494-504)
2. Wang Yangming (1472-1529), "Inquiry on the *Great Learning*" (458-460)
3. Notes and letters of Wang Yangming and Li Zhi (256-262)

SING SING

Tu 03.01

Readings due:

1. Feng Menglong, Preface to the *Mountain Songs* (539-542)
2. Tang Xianzu, *Peony Pavilion* (selections)
3. Li Yu, *Silent Operas* (selections)

NO CLASS

Th 03.03

**Extra time to work on take-home midterm, due by 5 pm on Friday
March 04, in Nappi's departmental mailbox**

TOUCH

WET

Tu 03.08

No readings due!

Week 9 Thinkpiece (on Jonathan Spence) Due Wednesday 03.09 at noon

SHARP [ONLINE]

Th 03.10

Readings due: Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang*

NO CLASS

Tu 03.15

Spend this time working on the readings for Thursday

Week 10 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 03.16 at noon

HARD

Th 03.17

Readings due:

1. Qing examinations (120-128)
2. Benjamin Elman, *A Cultural History of Civil Examinations in Late Imperial China*, Ch. 6 (295-370)

In class: dynastic dates quiz

SMOOTH

Tu 03.22

Readings due:

1. Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Chapters 2 & 3

Week 11 Thinkpiece Due Wednesday 03.23 at noon

SIGHT

BODY		Th 03.24
	No readings due! We will look at The Manchu Anatomy and Kangxi in class	
LINE		Tu 03.29
	No readings due! We will look at Qing court painters in class	
	Week 12 Thinkpiece (on Mark Elliott) Due Wednesday 03.30 at noon	
COLOR [ONLINE]		Th 03.31
	Readings due: Mark Elliott, <i>Emperor Qianlong</i> (selections)	
SHINE		Tu 04.05
	No readings due! Hay and Cahill and objects	
	In class: Reading Quiz 2	
CONCLUSION		Th 04.07
	Readings due:	
	1. Joanna Waley-Cohen, <i>The Sextants of Beijing</i> , Chapter 4	
	Final portfolio due by 5 pm on April 15, posted to the WebCT board	