

History 379/Asian Studies 340: Later Imperial China

Later Imperial China: A Sensory History

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 am -12 pm & by appointment, Buchanan Tower 1109

Class Hours: Tu & Th 3.30-4.50 pm, Buchanan B208

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 our course Vista site and the following five books, all of which are both on reserve at Koerner Library and available for purchase at the UBC bookstore:

1. Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*
2. Mark Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong: Son of Heaven, Man of the World*
3. Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire: A History of China Through 1600*
4. Sarah Schneewind, *A Tale of Two Melons: Emperor and Subject in Ming China*
5. Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*

I will often hand out a Weekly Guide that will serve as a roadmap to each week’s material and assignments. Please 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 Connect on time (and thoughtfully). Avoid, “I thought *A Tale of Two Melons* 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 two reading quizzes):	20%
Take-home midterm exam:	25%
Final portfolio consisting of a 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. All emails will go to your official email account on record with UBC, so please make sure to check it!

Thinkpieces

You are required to post a thinkpiece (TP) 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 aiming for.) Aside from that, the format is up to you. Be creative. Take risks. Use The Force.

Pro Tip: The *Connect* website can often be very useful, and it can just as often act like a hideous, stinky, dripping death-beast from the lower reaches of Hell. To save yourself from the inevitable frustration of the *Connect* site crashing on you just after you've composed and right before you've published The Greatest Thinkpiece Known To Mankind, you are strongly advised to compose your thinkpieces in a separate word-processing program, copy them, and paste them into *Connect*, rather than composing directly in the *Connect* window.

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

The Course Website on *Connect*

The course *Connect* site is our virtual classroom for the semester. It is where you will post your thinkpieces, where our online discussions will take place, and where I will post the short reading assignments and Weekly Guides. You can find *Connect* here:

<http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>

Click the little blue "CWL Login" button and proceed to log in with your CWL. Under "Course List," click on Tab for "[2013W2-HIST379-201-Later Imperial China-Nappi](#)." The "Resources" on the left side of the page contains links to the materials for each week. Click on the relevant link ("Week 2 Materials," etc.) and it will bring you to that week's readings, Weekly Guide, any handouts, and other goodies. The "Discussions" link will take you to the discussion boards for each week. This is where you will post your thinkpieces and where we will have stimulating and mind-expanding online discussions.

Posting on the *Connect* Discussion Board

1. Click the "Discussions" link on the lefthand side of the *Connect* screen.

2. Click on the topic devoted to the discussion for the week (“Week 2” etc.).
3. To post a new thread, click the bar for “Create Thread” 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 UBC IT Helpdesk using the online form or telephone number available here:

<http://it.ubc.ca/support>

If you have other questions about using the website, ask The Management!

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 later 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.

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. All work in this class must 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://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>, and come talk to me if you have any questions about this, at any time.

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 one unexcused absence, but two or more absences 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 penalized 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 01.07

SMELL

FISHY

No reading due!

Th 01.09

MUSK

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

Thinkpiece 1 due Wednesday 01.15 at noon

Tu 01.14

CAMPHOR

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)

Th 01.16

INCENSE

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)

Thinkpiece 2 due Wednesday 01.22 at noon

Tu 01.21

PERFUME

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

In class: Map Quiz!

Th 01.23

TASTE

SWEET

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)

Thinkpiece 3 due Wednesday 01.29 at noon

Tu 01.28

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

BITTER	Reading due: 1. Su Shi (1037-1101), “Parable of the Sun” (388-389) 2. Zhu Xi (1130-1200), <i>Conversations with his Disciples</i> (172-177) 3. Wang Anshi selections (609-628) [optional]	Th 01.30
DRUNKEN	Reading due: 1. Meng Yuanlao, <i>A Dream of Splendors Past in the Eastern Capital</i> 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) Thinkpiece 4 due Wednesday 02.05 at noon	Tu 02.04
SALTY	Reading due: Hansen, “Chapter 9: The Mongols ca. 1200-1368” (334-367)	Th 02.06
SOUR	Reading due: 1. Ni Zan, <i>Cloud Forest Hall Collection of Rules for Drinking and Eating</i> (selection, 444-455) 2. <i>A Soup for the Qan</i> (selection) In class: Reading Quiz 1	Tu 02.11

SOUND

CLANG CLANG	Reading due: Hansen, “Chapter 10: Continuing the War Against the Mongols: The Ming Dynasty 1368-1644” (368-407)	Th 02.13
TICK TOCK	Reading due: Sarah Schneewind, <i>A Tale of Two Melons</i> Thinkpiece 5 due Wednesday 02.26 at noon	Tu 02.25
CLAP CLAP	Reading due: 1. Schools and Civil Service in the Ming Dynasty (494-504) 2. Wang Yangming (1472-1529), “Inquiry on the <i>Great Learning</i> ” (458-460) 3. Notes and letters of Wang Yangming and Li Zhi (256-262)	Th 02.27
SING SING	COMBINED LECTURE meets today in Buch A102 Reading due: 1. Feng Menglong, Preface to the <i>Mountain Songs</i> (539-542) 2. Tang Xianzu, <i>Peony Pavilion</i> (selections) 3. Li Yu, <i>Silent Operas</i> (selections) No thinkpiece due this week: work on your midterms!	Tu 03.04

TOUCH

WET	No reading due! Take-home midterm due by 4 pm on Friday March 07, in Nappi's departmental mailbox	Th 03.06
SHARP	Reading due: Pu Songling, <i>Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio</i> (selections) Thinkpiece 6 due Wednesday 03.12 at noon	Tu 03.11
NO CLASS – WORK ON NEXT WEEK'S READINGS AND STUDY FOR DYNASTIC DATES QUIZ!		Th 03.13
HARD	Reading due: 1. Qing examinations (120-128) 2. Benjamin Elman, <i>A Cultural History of Civil Examinations in Late Imperial China</i> , Ch. 6 (295-370) In class: dynastic dates quiz Thinkpiece 7 due Wednesday 03.19 at noon	Tu 03.18
SMOOTH	Reading due: 1. Joanna Waley-Cohen, <i>The Sextants of Beijing</i> (selection)	Th 03.20

SIGHT

BODY	Reading due: Mark Elliott, <i>Emperor Qianlong</i> (selections) Thinkpiece 8 due Wednesday 03.26 at noon	Th 03.25
NO CLASS – WORK ON READING SHEN FU!		Th 03.27
COLOR	Reading due: Shen Fu, <i>Six Records of a Floating Life</i>	Tu 04.01
SMOKE	Reading due: Selections of primary sources from the Opium War	Th 04.03
CONCLUSION	No reading due! In class: Reading Quiz 2 Final portfolio due by 5 pm on April 11, posted to the <i>Connect</i> board	Tu 04.08