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Office Hours:
Tuesday 3:30-5
(and by appointment)

History 4625
Studies in Asian History:
EVERYDAY LIFE IN MING CHINA

READINGS: This course depends upon a heavy reading load of primary and secondary sources, often 200 pages a week. You will not complete the course successfully if you fall behind in the reading schedule.

Printed Books: All of these textbooks are available at the UGA Bookstore, but feel free to buy them cheaper online.

Bray, Francesca. *Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997.

Brook, Timothy. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Clunas, Craig. *Fruitful Sites: Garden Culture in Ming China*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1996.

Feng Menglong. *Stories from a Ming Collection*, trans. Cyril Birch. New York: Grove Press, 1988.

Levathes, Louise. *When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Roy, David Tod, trans. *The Plum in the Golden Vase. Volume One: The Gathering*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993.

PDFs: Buy a blank CD-R, and I will gladly burn all of these PDF files for you. In the past, most of my students have found this to be the most convenient option. For those of you with faster Internet connections, these files are also available for download from the course WebCT page, which is organized week by week. If you want hard copies of these documents, please print them double-sided and recycle them at the end of the semester.

Burke, Peter. "Res et verba." In John Brewer and Roy Porter, eds. *Consumption and the World of Goods*. London: Routledge, 1993, 148-161.

Cahill, James. *The Painter's Practice*. New York: Columbia UP, 1995.

Clunas, Craig. *Pictures and Visuality in Early Modern China*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997.

Clunas, Craig. *Superfluous Things*. London: Polity Press, 1991.

Mote, F.W. "The Transformation of Nanjing, 1350-1400." In G. William Skinner, ed. *The City in Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1977, 101-153.

Naquin, Susan. *Peking: Temples and City Life*. Berkeley: U Cal P, 2001.

Xu, Yinong. *The Chinese City in Space and Time: The Development of Urban Form in Suzhou*. Honolulu: U Hawaii P, 2000.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *The Modern World System I*. New York: Academic Press, 1974.

Wills, John E., "European Consumption and Asian Production in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in Brewer and Porter, 133-147.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES:

Two 5-page Analytical Essays (15%, 15%): These are designed to improve your critical reading and analytical writing skills. The first essay is due on 2/10; the second essay is due on 3/30. You will submit these at the beginning of class. No extensions whatsoever will be granted, and late and sloppy work will not be tolerated. For every 24 hours past the due date and time, you will be penalized one letter grade. If you submit any written work 4 calendar days past the due date, or do not submit it at all, you will *automatically* receive a course grade of withdraw failing (WF). I will be happy to read and critique paper drafts, as long as you submit them to me at least 5 days before the due date. I will give you much more detailed information, topics, and style sheets for these papers in a few weeks.

Take-home midterm examination (15%): Scheduled for 3/2, this examination will consist of two short thematic essays. Subject matter will be drawn primarily from primary and secondary source readings. I am more interested in seeing how well you can synthesize and analyze this material rather than in seeing how well you can regurgitate it. The more independent, critical, and analytical thinking I see in your bluebooks, the higher your grade will be.

Take-home final examination (25%): You will be given a week to write an 8-to-10 page essay synthesizing what you've learned, based on the books and articles you've read this semester.

Class attendance (10%): Your most important responsibility is to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken, and all absences will be considered unexcused. After your second absence from class, each subsequent absence will deduct one percentage point from your final course grade. If you arrive at class more than five minutes late, you will be marked absent that day. If your cell phone rings or if you fall asleep in class, you will also be marked absent that day.

Participation in discussion (10%): Your discussion grade will depend upon your active and constructive participation in class. Please read the assigned readings carefully and critically before you come to class. In class discussions, you must ask relevant questions, connect information among various readings, and make arguments and observations based on evidence.

Short writing assignments (10%): Every Thursday, please submit a one-page *critical* summary of the week's readings. These short writing assignments will help you to focus your thoughts, and to hone your critical reading skills. They will also provide you with talking points to discuss, as well as questions to be answered in class. These are not book reports, nor are they personal reactions to what you read. Just tell me the *central argument* of each reading assignment.

A Warning: You and you alone are responsible for knowing how to adhere to the code of academic honesty. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. If I suspect you have violated the code of academic honesty, you will be subjected to the university's official adjudication process. UGA's official policy on academic honesty can be found at:

http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm

SYLLABUS:

Week 1

8/17 Introduction to the Course

Week 2 The Structures of Everyday Life

8/22 Ways of Seeing; or, What We Talk about When We Talk about Things

8/24 *Reading:* Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, 1-85

Week 3 The Culture of Commerce

8/29 *Reading:* Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, 86-152

8/31 *Reading:* Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, 153-237

Week 4 World Trade and Ritual Diplomacy

9/5 *PDF:* Wallerstein, "Medieval Prelude"

9/7 *Reading:* Levathes, *When China Ruled the Seas*, 19-106

Before class, spend an hour exploring <http://exhibitions.nlb.gov.sg/zhenghe/>

Week 5 Ming China in the World Economy

9/12 *Reading:* Levathes, *When China Ruled the Seas*, 106-203

9/14 *PDF:* John Wills, "European Consumption and Asian Production in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" 133-147; Peter Burke, "*Res et verba: Conspicuous Consumption in the Early Modern World*" 148-161

FIRST ESSAY DUE IN CLASS 9/19

Week 6 Conspicuous Consumption

9/19 *PDF:* Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence* 110-165

9/21 *PDF:* Craig Clunas, *Superfluous Things* 117-165

Week 7 Art Mirrors Life, Life Mirrors Art

9/26 *PDF:* James Cahill, *The Painter's Practice* Chapters 1 & 2

9/28 *PDF:* Craig Clunas, *Pictures and Visuality in Early Modern China* 102-148

Week 8 A Garden Party

10/3 Slide Lecture: Ming Painting

10/5 *Reading:* Craig Clunas, *Fruitful Sites*, 9-103

Week 9

10/10 *Reading:* Craig Clunas, *Fruitful Sites*, 104-176

10/12 IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 10 Searching for the Public Sphere

10/17 *PDFs*: Frederick Mote, "The Transformation of Nanking;" Yinong Xu, *The Chinese City in Space and Time*, 128-180

10/19 *PDF*: Susan Naquin, *Peking: Temples and City Life* Chapters 1, 3 & 6

Week 11 Fabrics of Power 1

10/24 *Reading*: Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender* 51-172

Before class, spend at least an hour exploring <http://www.pem.org/yinyutang/>

10/26 FALL BREAK: Enjoy your purely intellectual pursuits.

SECOND ESSAY DUE IN CLASS 11/7

Week 12 Fabrics of Power 2

10/31 *Reading*: Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender* 175-272

11/2 *Reading*: Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender* 275-380

Week 13 Getting into Ming Fiction

11/7 *Reading*: Feng, *Stories from a Ming Collection*, 7-96

11/9 *Reading*: Feng, *Stories from a Ming Collection*, 98-198

Week 14 Sex and Shopping: A Literary Mirror 1

11/14 *Reading*: Roy, *The Plum in the Golden Vase* 3-95

11/16 *Reading*: Roy, *The Plum in the Golden Vase* 96-169

Week 15

11/21 Thanksgiving Break: Class Canceled

11/23 Thanksgiving Break: Class Canceled

Week 16 Sex and Shopping: A Literary Mirror 2

11/28 *Reading*: Roy, *The Plum in the Golden Vase* 170-252

11/30 *Reading*: Roy, *The Plum in the Golden Vase* 253-336

Week 16 Sex and Shopping: A Literary Mirror 3

12/5 *Reading*: Roy, *The Plum in the Golden Vase* 337-427

Take-Home Final Exam due December 12