

History 539 (29703)/Asian 539 (29772)/CCS 539 (29771) – Fall 2016

Critical Readings in Documentary Chinese

MoWe 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, [2271 AH](#)

Instructor:

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Office hours: Mondays, 10 am-12pm (or by appointment)

This course introduces masters' and doctoral students to documentary Chinese, through critical readings of selected primary documents in different genres, ranging from the Qing dynasty (1644-1912) through the Republic of China (1912-1949). Since the Qing dynasty had a formative impact on the way documentary Chinese was written even after its demise in 1912, the emphasis of the course will be on reading palace memorials, local gazetteers, newspapers, treaties and other standardized documents from the Qing, but the latter third of the course will be devoted to readings of documents from the Republican Era.

Students will also be taught how to use important reference tools and how to make use of [the vast resources of the University of Michigan Asia Library](#). Demonstrated reading knowledge of modern Chinese is required and familiarity with Classical Chinese (or Japanese *kanbun*) is desirable. Advanced undergraduate students may take the course with special permission from the instructor.

Requirements, Class Format and Grading

Students will be graded on the skills they demonstrate in reading, analyzing, and translating primary sources in documentary Chinese, as well as on written work submitted during the course of the semester. A short research paper (20 pages) based on primary sources in Chinese will be submitted electronically at the end of classes and will constitute 30 per cent of the final grade. Attendance and active participation on class will constitute 50 per cent of the grade and timely submission of written documents will constitute 20 per cent.

For the first two thirds of the course, we will read one to three documents a week from the Harvard Research Portal, which reproduces government documents from a rebellion in [Chongyang County](#) in Hubei province during the winter of 1842. In the final third of the course, students will familiarize themselves with forms of handwritten Chinese and read selections from 20th century documentary Chinese.

In class, we will read the assigned documents aloud and translate them, sentence by sentence. Reading comprehension of the written material is just as important as rendering the documents into proper English; documentary Chinese was a relatively precise bureaucratic language where most terms had fixed meanings. Students are encouraged to use reference works in order to find proper English translations of unfamiliar or specialized terminology. Students will be asked to submit written translations of certain documents (marked by “Translation assignment” in syllabus) prior to class. If you find it hard to translate initially, do not despair. Translation is a skill that takes time to develop and timely submission of translation assignments is more important than 100 per cent accuracy.

General Course Policies

- Attendance in class is mandatory. Students are allowed one unexcused absence in section.
- Please come in time to class meetings; if you happen to arrive late, please enter the classroom as unobtrusively as possible. If you are unable to arrive in class by 1:10 pm or have to leave early, due to a school-related scheduling conflict (i.e. other classes), please let me know in advance.
- The syllabus may be subject to change; make sure that you check the syllabus regularly on Canvas.
- Auditors are only allowed to attend class with the explicit approval of the instructor.
- Please note that audio or video recording class is not permitted, except with permission from the instructor. Pär Cassel retains all legal rights to the contents of his lectures and other course materials authored by him, © 2016. Sale, paid-transcription, or other commercial use of such materials, including recordings, transcripts, detailed notes, and photocopies, is prohibited.

Academic integrity

History 539 follows the [academic integrity guidelines](#) set forth by the College of LSA. Students should familiarize themselves with this documents, which explains the standards of academic integrity and clarify the prohibited forms of academic misconduct. You are encouraged to take the on-line [academic integrity quiz](#) to learn more about our guidelines and the [on-line plagiarism quiz](#). Students in History 539 should consult the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#) for all issues of source citation, along with any specific guidelines provided in the course assignments. Clarifying the disciplinary standards of research ethics and source citation is part of the educational mission of this course, and students should consult the faculty instructor regarding any questions. The penalties for deliberate cases of plagiarism and/or other forms of academic misconduct range from zero on the assignment to failure on the course. Cases that the instructor judges to be particularly serious, or those in which the student contests the charge of academic misconduct, will be handled by the office of the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education. All cases of deliberate academic misconduct that result in formal sanctions of any kind will be reported to the dean’s office, as required by LSA policy, which also ensures due process rights of appeal for students.

Students with Disabilities

If you think you may need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at the beginning of the term. Next, you should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation (VISA) form and we can arrange for your accommodation. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

If you already have a VISA form from SSD, please present this form to me at the beginning of the term, but no later than at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation so that there is enough time for the appropriate arrangements to be made.

Student Mental Health and Well-Being

University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (734) 764-8312 and caps.umich.edu during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus.

Readings to be Purchased by Students

- [Kirby, William C. *State and Economy in Republican China: A Handbook for Scholars.* Harvard East Asian Monographs. 2 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center : Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2000. \[Abbreviated *SERC* in syllabus below.\]](#)

Optional Readings

- [Wang Fang-yü. *Introduction to Chinese Cursive Script.* New Haven,: Institute of Far Eastern Languages, Yale University, 1972. 1958.](#)
- [Wilkinson, Endymion Porter, and Harvard University. Asia Center. *Chinese History: A New Manual.* Rev. ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2012.](#)

On-line Teaching Material and Primary Resources

[Harvard Research Portal For Ming-Qing History](#) (username: UMichuser; password: Qingdocs)

[Social History of China, 1949-1979: Sources](#) (Lund University)

[Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History, On-line Archives \(Nankang\)](#)

[Palace Museum Archives \(Taipei\)](#)

[Scripta Sinica](#)

On-line Reference Resources

[Academia Sinica Biographical Database](#)

[Academia Sinica 2000 Year Calendar Converter](#)

[UM Library – Chinese Studies Resources](#)

Reference Works on Physical and/or Electronic Reserve

- [Hirth, Friedrich](#), and C. H. Brewitt-Taylor. *Text Book of Modern Documentary Chinese, for the Special Use of the Chinese Customs Service*. 2d ed. Shanghai, Kelly &, 1909.
- [Hucker, Charles O.](#) *A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1985.
- [Hummel, Arthur William](#), ed. *Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (1644-1912)*. Taiwanese reprint ed. 2 vols. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1943.
- [Lieberthal, Kenneth](#). *A Research Guide to Central Party and Government Meetings in China, 1949-1975*, Michigan Papers in Chinese Studies. White Plains, N.Y.: International Arts and Sciences Press, 1976.
- [Mittler, Barbara](#). *A Newspaper for China? Power, Identity, and Change in Shanghai's News Media, 1872-1912*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Pei Yansheng, He Zhuang, Li Zuoming, and Yang Ruohe, eds. *Lishi Wenshu*. Beijing: Zhongguo renmin daxue chubanshe, 2003.
- Sun, E-tu Zen. *Ch'ing Administrative Terms a Translation of the Terminology of the Six Boards with Explanatory Notes*, Harvard East Asian Studies, 7. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961.
- [Schoenhals, Michael](#). *Doing Things with Words in Chinese Politics: Five Studies*. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies University of California, 1992.

Week 1 (Sept. 7): Introduction

Wednesday: What are “Qing docs” and why do they matter?

- Read “[Introduction](#)” in the *Harvard Document Guides*.
- Fairbank, John King, and Ssu-yü Têng. "[On the Transmission of Ch'ing Documents](#)." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 4, no. 1 (1939): 12-46.*
- Fairbank, John King, and Ssu-yü Têng. "[On the Types and Uses of Ch'ing Documents](#)." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 5, no. 1 (1940): 1-71.*

Week 2 (Sept. 12, 14): The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie (1842)

Monday:

- Documents I.1 (Translation assignment 1), I.1a

Wednesday:

- Documents 2, 2.1
- Wilkinson (2012), pp. 610-12, 833-34

Week 3 (Sept. 19, 21): The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie

Monday:

- Document 3 (Translation assignment 2)

Wednesday:

- Documents 4, 5

Week 4 (Sept. 26, 28) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Monday: Document 6 (Translation assignment 3).

Wednesday: Documents 7, 8

Week 5 (Oct. 3, 5) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Monday:

- Document 9 (Translation assignment 4).
- Hegel, Robert E., et al, "Introduction," *True Crimes in Eighteenth-Century China : Twenty Case Histories* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009), pp. 3-27.
 - Karasawa, Yasuhiko. "Hanasu Koto to Kaku Koto No Hazama De - Shindai Saiban Bunsho Ni Okeru Kyôjutsusho No Tekusutosei." *Chûgoku - Shakai to bunka*, no. 10 (1995): 212-50.*
 - Karasawa, Yasuhiko. "Shindai Ni Okeru Sojô to Sono Sakuseisha." *Chûgoku - Shakai to bunka*, no. 13 (1998): 306-30.*

Wednesday:

- Document 9, ctd.

Week 6 (Oct. 10, 12) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Monday: Document 10

- Wilkinson (2012), pp. 209-214.

Wednesday:

- Document 10, ctd.

Week 7 (Study break, Oct. 19) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Wednesday:

- Document 11.

Week 8 (Oct. 24, 26) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Monday: Document 11, ctd.

Wednesday: Document 12.

Week 9 (Oct. 31, Nov. 2) The Rebellion of Zhong Renjie, ctd.

Monday:

- Document 13

Wednesday:

- Document 14

Week 10 (Nov. 7, 9): Republican Documents

Monday: Wu Yunchu's Enterprises

- Zhang Wode, "How to Read Republican Period Documents, in *SERC*, 1:167-180.
- Document 1, *SERC*, 2:5.

Wednesday: Wu Yunchu

- Document 2, *SERC*, 2:6-8.

Week 11 (Nov. 14, 16): Republican Documents

Monday: Wu Yunchu

- Documents 3, 4, in *SERC*, 2:9-11.

Wednesday: Wu Yunchu

- Documents 5, 6, 7, in *SERC*, 2:12-14.

Week 12 (Nov. 21, Thanksgiving break): Republican Documents

Monday: Wu Yunchu

- Documents 8, 9, 10, in *SERC*, 2:15-18.

Week 13 (Nov. 28, 30)

Monday: Liu Hongsheng's Match Enterprises

- Documents 1, 2, 3, in *SERC*, 2:25-27.

Wednesday: Liu Hongsheng's Match Enterprises

- Documents 4, 5, in *SERC*, 2:28-30.

Week 14 (Dec. 5, 7): Republican Documents

Monday: Liu Hongsheng's Match Enterprises

- Documents 6, 7, 8, in *SERC*, 2:31-33.

Wednesday: Draft outline for the Takeover of Taiwan

- Documents 1, in *SERC*, 2:107-121.

Week 15 (Dec. 12): Republican Documents

Monday: Draft outline for the Takeover of Taiwan

- Document 1, ctd.

Final paper due Wednesday, December 21, 2016, 1:30 pm.