

Winter-Spring 2013

HSTAS 555-556
Core seminar in Chinese History

Instructor: Patricia Ebrey
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112A Smith
Office hours Monday 3:30 to 5:00 or by appointment

This two-quarter research seminar will meet five times in the winter quarter and five times in the spring quarter. The goal of this seminar is to get students doing “real” research, aiming to write a publishable article or dissertation chapter. Each student will choose a research topic and present his or her progress to the class in stages, including presentation of an important secondary work (in English or Chinese), a key primary source in Chinese, a first draft, and a final draft. These can be distributed in electronic form. Students are encouraged to get involved in each other’s projects and help each other formulate good topics, develop suitable strategies for researching them, and present their findings in persuasive ways. Facility in reading Chinese, including Classical Chinese, is necessary for this course.

No letter grades will be given at the end of the first quarter. The grade for both quarters, given after the completion of the second quarter, will be based on the final paper (50%), earlier presentations (25%), and contributions to the discussion and critique of other students’ work (25%).

Schedule

Winter Quarter

Week one (1/11) Introduction: What makes an article publishable?

Week three (1/25) Journal Analysis. Select a journal in your field that publishes articles on China in English and spend three hours studying it closely. What kind of articles does it publish? What are some of the topics recently included? What sort of evidence/sources do the authors use? Does it include Chinese characters throughout? Only in reference matter? Not at all? Is this a suitable journal for someone wanting to publish his or her first article? What could improve your chances of getting accepted in this journal? Bring a handout for the other people in the class with your key findings.

Week four (2/1) Presentation of research paper topic and a key work of earlier scholarship on the topic. A one page proposal and a copy of the article need to be distributed to the others by email in advance (by Wednesday).

Week seven (2/22) Presentation of a key Chinese language primary source by those in Group A (distributed by email in advance, by Wednesday). Be prepared to discuss issues of translation as well as interpretation.

Week eight (3/1) Presentation of a key primary source by Group B.

Spring quarter

Week two () Oral progress reports.

Week five () Discussion of first drafts. Half the class (Group A) will present their first drafts (at least 20 pages), having distributed them by email a week in advance. The other half of the class will distribute their drafts for discussion the following week.

Week six () Discussion of first drafts by Group B.

Week eight () Discussion of full drafts (at least 30 pages) by Group A (distributed by email a week in advance). Distribution of final drafts by Group B.

Week ten () Discussion of full drafts by Group B.

Week eleven (exam week). Paper copies of the final versions of the paper due by 4 PM June 10 in instructor's mail box.