

History 408/508 (Win 2014)
CRN 28322/28323
105 PETR
Tu, Th noon-1:20p.m.

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Shanghai: The Transnational City in Chinese and Non-Chinese Cultural Imagination

This course is about urban imagination, cross-cultural contact, imperialism, capitalism, nationalism, and the history of a major Chinese metropolis that experienced a uniquely transnational existence. Divided, from the mid-nineteenth century, into separate zones of Chinese, French and Anglo-American jurisdiction, the densely populated Chinese commercial city of Shanghai has fascinated Chinese, Western, and Japanese residents and writers. Chinese and non-Chinese commentators, embracing various and distinctive cultural and political agendas, viewed Shanghai as the exotic city--alluring, foreign, and dangerous.

The course is broadly interdisciplinary, focusing on the interpretation of primary sources. A variety of visual, literary and historical source materials serve as windows on late 19th and early 20th century Shanghai history, with particular focus on Chinese and non-Chinese urban imaginations, Orientalism, Occidentalism, projects of city-building, semi-colonialism and urban culture. Readings include both primary sources in English as well as Chinese and Japanese materials in translation. Short lectures and secondary literature in English will provide historical context.

Requirements: There are no prerequisites. Students are required to attend class, read the assignments assiduously, turn in all written assignments on time, *and be active participants in thoughtful discussion*. You will need to take notes during the lecture portions of class. In order to read effectively for class discussion you should think about the reading questions posed in the syllabus, and you should bring written notes about them with you to class. There is a midterm. In addition, students are required to write two short papers (3-5) pages each, based on course readings, as specified in the class schedule below. Grading is as follows: attendance and active participation (30%), midterm (20%), papers (50%). Graduate students (enrolled in History 508) will have additional meetings, readings and assignments.

Readings: The following **required** books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Mao Dun, *Midnight* (1930)
Yokomitsu Riichi, *Shanghai* (1929)
André Malraux, *Man's Fate* (1933)
Zhang Henshui, *Shanghai Express* (1935)

The following recommended books are also available for purchase:

Meng Yue, *Shanghai and the Edges of Empires* (2006)

Steve Smith *Like Cattle and Horses* (2002)

These books are also on reserve at Knight Library. The other **required** course readings are available in a course packet or on blackboard, as noted in the reading schedule below, and on reserve at Knight library.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS

Week 1 **Shanghai Orientations**

Jan 7 Introduction, Shanghai in Pictures

Jan 9 Shanghai in Maps

Read for discussion:

•Catherine Vance Yeh, "Representing the City: Shanghai and its Maps," in David Faure, ed., *Town and Country* (Oxford: Clarendon, 2001), pp. 166-202. (in packet)

Week 2 **Historical Contexts: Whose Shanghai?**

Jan 14 Readings for discussion: Everyone should read the following article by Bergère plus one selection each from groups 1 and 2 below. Plan to come to class prepared to discuss what your selected readings tell you about interactions between different groups in the city.

•Marie-Claire Bergère, "The Other China: Shanghai from 1919-1949," in C. Howe, ed., *Shanghai: Revolution and Development in an Asian Metropolis* (Cambridge England, 1981), 1-34. (in packet)

Jan 16 **Paper #1 due in class** (see readings and assignment below). You should also come prepared to discuss what your readings for this paper tell you about interactions between different groups in the city.

Group 1 readings (read one from this group, together with one from Group 2):

Meng Yue, *Shanghai and the Edges of Empires* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), pp. vii-30.

Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), pp. 1-66. (on reserve)

Bryna Goodman, *Native Place, City, and Nation: Regional Networks and Identities in Shanghai, 1853-1937* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), pp. 1-29. (on reserve)

Catherine Yeh, *Shanghai Love: Courtesans, Intellectuals and Entertainment Culture, 1850-1910*. (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2006), pp. 1-95 (on reserve)

Elizabeth Perry, *Shanghai on Strike* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993), pp. 1-64 (on reserve)

Group 2 readings (select and read one from this group):

Nicholas Clifford, *Spoilt Children of Empire: Westerners in Shanghai and the Chinese Revolution of the 1920s* (Hanover and London: Middlebury College Press, 1991) pp. 1-78. (on reserve)

Joshua Fogel, "'Shanghai-Japan': The Japanese Residents' Association of Shanghai," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 59 no. 4 (November 2000), pp. 927-950. (on blackboard)

Christian Henriot, "'Little Japan' in Shanghai: An Insulated Community, 1875-1945," in Robert Bickers and Christian Henriot, eds., *New Frontiers: Imperialism's New Communities in East Asia, 1842-1953* (Manchester and NY: Manchester U. Press, 2000), pp. 146-169. (in packet)

Frances Wood, *No Dogs and Not Many Chinese: Treaty Port Life In China, 1843-1943* (London: John Murray, 1998), 1-33; 48-60. (on reserve)

First Paper Assignment: Read one selection each from Group 1 (Lu, Goodman, Yeh or Perry) **and** from Group 2 (Clifford, Fogel, Wood or Henriot). (In other words, you will read two selections in all.) Write a 2-3 page essay that identifies the constituency of "Shanghai," as each author describes his or her topic. Whose city is it? What central ideas or questions does such a city raise for reflection, in each text? You may organize your paper as two separate short essays, each focusing on one text, or you may choose to organize your descriptions of each text in a single comparative discussion. **due in class**

Week 3 Shanghai as a Contact Zone: What Guidebooks Tell

Jan 21: Western Guidebooks

Readings for discussion:

•Arnold Wright. 1908. *Twentieth Century Impressions of Hong Kong, Shanghai, and other Treaty Ports of China*. London: Lloyds. (selections, in packet—be sure to read sections on both Western and Chinese residents)

•C.E. Darwent. 1920. *Shanghai, A Handbook for Travelers and Residents*, (selections, in packet)

Reading questions (come prepared for discussion):

What is the tone of the historical summary in Wright's 1908 guide? How does it treat Chinese vs. Western interests? What are the lives, homes and pastimes of the "leading residents" like? What are the lives, homes and pastimes of the "prominent Chinese residents" like? What patterns of interaction, and what hierarchies of power do they reveal? What changes in Shanghai does Darwent's 1920 handbook reveal? What patterns of Chinese/non-Chinese interaction appear in the book? Do patterns of Chinese/non-Chinese contact appear different?

Jan 23: Chinese Guidebooks

Readings for discussion (see questions next page):

- Ge Yuanxu, *Huyou zaji* [Shanghai Miscellany], 1876 translation (document on Blackboard)
- Wang Dingjiu, *Shanghai menjing* [Key to Shanghai], 1937 translation (document on Blackboard).

Reading questions (come prepared for discussion):

How does Ge Yuanxu view the city (positively? negatively)? What are his primary areas of focus in describing the city? What does Ge think of the foreign parts of the city, and of the foreign settlements? How is his guidebook different in organization from the western guidebooks? What patterns of interaction with foreigners appear in this guide?

What do the introduction and table of contents suggest to be the focus of Wang Dingjiu's guidebook? What, for Wang, should people know about the city? Are there continuities between Ge's guide and Wang's?

Week 4 Chinese Impressions of Shanghai, cont'd

Jan 28: A Chinese Literati View

Reading for discussion:

- Li Boyuan. 1905. *Modern Times: A Brief History of Enlightenment* (Douglas Lancashire, trans., Hong Kong: Renditions, 1996), author's preface (handout), pp. 132-203 (packet)

Reading questions (come prepared for discussion):

What does the author's preface tell you about Li's attitude toward change in China? What are the experiences of the Jia brothers as they visit Shanghai? What new things do they see? How do foreigners and foreign things appear? How do Chinese influenced by foreign things appear? What happens to relations between the sexes? What do you think the author thinks about Chinese tradition, cultural change, morality, Western encroachments on China and Western influence?

Jan 30 Interpreting a Celebration of Transnational Community: The Shanghai Jubilee of 1893: Chinese and Western Representations of Transnational Community

Reading discussion:

Shanghai, 1843-1893: The Model Settlement: Its Birth, Its Youth, Its Jubilee. 1893. Shanghai: Shanghai Mercury. (selection, in packet)

Reading Questions:

What is the tone and focus of the Western accounts of the Jubilee? What was being celebrated? What accounts are given of Chinese participation in the celebrations?

Reference Reading: Bryna Goodman, "Improvisations on a Semicolonial Theme" (on Blackboard)

Week 5 Sex and the City (I): Courtesans and Prostitutes

Feb 4 •Christian Henriot, *Prostitution and Sexuality in Shanghai*, pp. 21-98 (Blackboard).

Feb 6 **Readings for discussion (see questions next page):**

- Catherine Vance Yeh, "Creating a Shanghai Identity—Late Qing Courtesan Handbooks," in Tao Tao Liu and David Faure, eds., *Unity and Diversity: Local Cultures and Identities in China* (1996), pp. 107-123 (in packet)

Reading Questions:

How would you describe the social space of the courtesans ? Was the world of courtesans distinguishable from that of other prostitutes ? In what ways do courtesans reflect the status of women in late imperial China ? What does the change in the prostitution market tell us about social change in Shanghai ? Which competing visions of prostitution and courtesans emerge over time ? What is Yeh's argument about the connection between courtesan handbooks and Shanghai identity?

Week 6 Sex and the City (II): New Culture and the New Woman

Feb 11: Readings: Zhang Henshui. 1935. *Shanghai Express* (William Lyell, trans., University of Hawaii Press, 1997) or Ding Ling, "Shanghai, Spring 1930," in Tani Barlow, ed., *I, Myself am a Woman*, pp. 112-171 (on Blackboard).

Reading questions: What are the characteristics of the New Woman? How do men feel about her? Do these stories suggest changing notions of morality? What is the connection between Shanghai and the New Woman?

Reference: Goodman, "The New Woman Commits Suicide" (on Blackboard)

Feb. 13 Midterm

Week 7 Capitalism, Colonialism and Revolution

Feb. 18 Mao Dun, *Midnight*, pp. 1-250

Feb. 20 Shanghai Capitalists, Workers, Communists and Guomindang
A Left-Wing Chinese View

Reading:

- Mao Dun, *Midnight*, read through p. 250.

Questions for discussion: What kills Old Mr. Wu, after he travels from the countryside to Shanghai? What is Shanghai like? What are the relations and differences between the city and the countryside? How does Mao Dun describe the business class, or bourgeoisie? What different groups make up Shanghai's elite? How sympathetic are they? How moral? What problems do they have? How does Mao Dun describe gender relations among the elite?

Week 8 Mao Dun's Analysis of Class, Imperialism and Revolution

Feb 25 Reading: Mao Dun, *Midnight*, finish book.

Questions for discussion: How does Mao Dun describe factory relations? Factory workers? Relations among organizers and workers? Social mobilization? How does the stock market work? Who controls what happens? What would you say is Mao Dun's analysis of class, imperialism and revolution?

Feb 27 A Japanese Pan-Asianist View

Reading:

- Yokomitsu Riichi, *Shanghai* (postscript—first—then, pp. 1-106)

Questions for discussion: How does Yokomitsu's Shanghai differ from that of Mao Dun? What are the features of the city? How do the Japanese appear? How do the Chinese appear? How do they interact? What seems to be happening with relations between sexes?

Week 9 Yokomitsu Riichi's Shanghai

March 4 Reading:

- Yokomitsu Riichi, *Shanghai* (finish)

Questions for May 27 discussion: How is Yokomitsu Riichi's depiction of the May Thirtieth Movement different from that of Mao Dun? What happens to class in his novel?

March 6 Video: *China in Revolution*

Paper #2: Write a 5-page paper comparing Mao Dun's portrait of imperialism and class-conflict in Shanghai with Yokomitsu Riichi's Shanghai. (Due May 30)

Week 10 Shanghai in France

March 11 Reading:

- André Malraux, *The Human Condition* (all)

Reading Questions for Malraux, Man's Fate: What vision of Shanghai characterizes Man's Fate? (What is the city like? Who is in it?). In what kind of society does Malraux situate the main characters of his novel? What do the characters seem to be like, as people? Is the position of the French different from the other novels?

What are the differences between the two characters, Tchen and Kyo? Compare Malraux's view of the Chinese revolutionary movement with the views of Mao Dun and Yokomitsu Riichi.

March 13 Shanghai in Film

Xin Nuxing (The New Woman)

**It should go without saying that all written assignments must reflect your own work. If you have any questions about this, please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic dishonesty:
libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/

It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of suspected academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Conduct in office of Student Life.

History 508, Supplementary Readings and Assignments for Graduate Students

Graduate students are required to write three papers, 5-10 pages each. Graduate students do not take the midterm. We will have at least four supplemental meetings.

Paper #1: Complete the readings assigned for History 410, first paper. Then, write a critical review (approx. 5-7 pp.) of one of the following:

Marie-Claire Bergère, *The Golden Age of the Shanghai Bourgeoisie*

Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights*

Christian Henriot, *Shanghai, 1927-37*

Leo Lee, *Shanghai Modern*

Bryna Goodman, *Native Place, City and Nation*

Nicholas Clifford, *Spoilt Children of Empire*

Your paper should describe the perspective, methodology and argument of the book and assess its contribution to an understanding of Shanghai history.

Paper #2: Write a short review of Meng Yue, *Shanghai and the Edges of Empires*.]

Supplementary Reading for first meeting:

Bryna Goodman, "Improvisations on a Semi-Colonial Theme, or, How to Read a Celebration of Transnational Urban Community," *Journal of Asian Studies*, November 2000, pp. 889-926.

Supplementary Reading for second meeting:

Gail Hershatter, *Dangerous Pleasures*, selections.

Come prepared to discuss comparison with Henriot. (How would you characterize the different approaches of the two studies of prostitution?)

Supplementary Reading for third meeting: Read both texts listed on the syllabus.

Supplementary Reading for fourth meeting:

Elizabeth Perry, *Shanghai on Strike*, pp. 1-108.

Paper #3: Write an essay that critically compares the perspectives on Shanghai offered by the three novels read in class, by Mao Dun, Yokomitsu Riichi and André Malraux.