

Fall 2023

EALC 8728: Conquest Dynasties

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Seminar meetings: Mondays, 5:15pm, in the Willoughby East Asia Seminar Room.  
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-11:00am; Thursdays, 2:00-3:00pm.

This course will introduce students to current scholarship on and analytical approaches to the pre-Mongol Inner Asian conquest dynasties that ruled significant portions of China—the Liao, Jin, and Xixia regimes. Over the course of the semester, we will read through secondary literature on these dynasties, primarily in English, adding material in other languages as feasible. For the Fall 2023 semester, we will combine a broad perspective on conquest dynasties with a focus on recent research on the Liao dynasty. The last decade has seen a steady growth in the field of Liao history; we will learn its contours and examine its implications for received interpretations.

Students are required to attend class and to do the reading on time. Assigned readings present historical analyses in English, and the whole seminar is responsible for reading these in their entirety; supplemental readings may be assigned to individual participants to present to the seminar.

In addition to active, thoughtful, and informed participation in each week's seminar, there are two assignments:

1. Students will write a final paper. This may take the form of a literature review for a dissertation prospectus or for a grant proposal; or a longer research paper. The length will generally be about 10,000-20,000 words, but the exact details of format and length will be worked out individually with me. I am happy to discuss prospective paper topics with each of you over the course of the semester. A preliminary title and abstract are due on **Oct. 9**. An annotated bibliography will be due **Oct. 30**. The final paper is due at the end of the semester, **December 21**.
2. An essay or a combined essay and outline of about 2,500 words that applies the course material to three units of an undergraduate history course. How would you organize your discussion of the Song dynasty? How would you synthesize the scholarship we have read into your lectures? How will you incorporate debates within the field and revise established historical interpretations? Due at the end of the semester, **December 21**.

Final grades will be calculated from: in-class performance (30%), final paper (45%), teaching essay (25%). I encourage discussion and collaboration within the seminar. If you would like to use the East Asia Seminar Room to prepare together, let me know, and I will reserve it for you. The work that you ultimately present and turn in must be your own and must properly document and acknowledge quotations and uses of other scholars' work. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

## Readings

The readings outlined here are preliminary. We will adjust these as the semester progresses.

### Week 1, September 11: Introduction to the Course

### Week 2, September 18: Orientations

Biran, Michal. "Periods of Non-Han Rule." In *A Companion to Chinese History*, ed. Michael Szonyi, pp. 129-142. Wiley, 2017.

Di Cosmo, Nicola. "State Formation and Periodization in Inner Asian History." *Journal of World History* 10, no. 1 (1999): 1-40.

Standen, Naomi. "Alien Regimes and Mental States." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 40.1 (1997): 73-89.

Hansen, Valerie, and François Louis. "Evolving Approaches to the Study of the Liao." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013): 1-9.

### Week 3, September 25: Before the Kitan and Early Kitan History

Atwood, Christopher. "The Qai, the Khongai, and the Names of the Xiōngnú". *Ou-Ya xuekan* 歐亞學刊 n.s., 2 (2015): 35-63.

Barenghi, Maddalena. The Making of the Shatuo: Military Leadership and Border Unrest in North China's Daibei (808-880). *Central Asiatic Journal* 63 (2020): 39-70.

Golden, Peter. "The Каеpiči [Каепичи]". In *Historical Linguistics and Philology of Central Asia: Essays in Turkic and Mongolic Studies*, ed. Bayarma Khabtagaeva, pp. 39-89. Brill, 2019.

Holmgren, Jennifer. "Yeh-lü, Yao-lien and Ta-ho: Views of the Hereditary Prerogative in Early Khitan Leadership". In *Papers on Far Eastern History* 34 (1986): 37-81.

Miao Runbo 苗潤博. "Uncovering the History of the Predynastic Kitan: The Historical Memory of Dynasties of Northern Descent from a Polity Perspective." *Chinese Studies in History* 55.1-2 (2022): 108-137.

Tishin, V.V (2018). "Kimāk and Chù-mù-kūn 處木昆: Notes on an Identification." In *Archaeology, Ethnology & Anthropology of Eurasia*. 46(3):107-113.

### Week 4, October 2: Approaches to Liao History

The Wittfogel and Feng book is massive, and you won't be expected to read the whole thing (though that would be highly rewarding). Skim the volume to get a sense of their approach and compare this with Twitchett and Tietze's treatment and with the historiographical overview by Hansen and Louis.

Wittfogel, Karl A., and Chia-sheng Feng. *History of Chinese Society: Liao (907-1125)*. Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1949.

**Week 5, October 9: Liao Political History**  
**Final Paper abstract due**

Standen, Naomi. *Unbounded Loyalty: Frontier Crossing in Liao China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007.

**Week 6, October 16: Sources for Liao History**

Chan, Hok-lam. "Chinese Official History at the Yuan Court: The Composition of the Liao, Chin, and Sung Histories." In *China under Mongol Rule*, edited by John D. Langlois, pp. 56-106. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1981.

Kane, Daniel. "An Update on Deciphering the Kitan Language and Scripts." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013): 11-25.

Pursey, Lance. "Tents, Towns and Topography: How Chinese-Language Liao Epitaphs Depicted the Moving Court." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 48 (2019): 177-206.

Standen, Naomi. "Integration and Separation: The Framing of the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) in Chinese Sources." *Asia Major* 3d ser., 24.2 (2011): 147-97.

Yang Ruowei. "The Liao Dynasty Stone Inscriptions and Their Importance to the Study of Liao History." *Gest Library Journal* 6.2 (1993): 55-72.  
[http://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/ejPDF.php?aKey=yang\\_ruowei.EALJ.v06.n02.p055.pdf](http://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/ejPDF.php?aKey=yang_ruowei.EALJ.v06.n02.p055.pdf)

**Week 7, October 23: Liao Material Culture**

Hong, Jeehee. "'Nomadic' Underworlds in the Western Capital of the Liao." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 51 (2022): 157-205.

Kinoshita, Hiromi. "Hybridity and Conquest: Patterns of Liao (AD 907–1125) Khitan Tomb Burial." In *Cultural Interaction and Conflict in Central and Inner Asia*, edited by Michael Gervers et al., pp. 129–144. Asian Institute, University of Toronto, 2004.

Louis, François. "Iconic Ancestors: Wire Mesh, Metal Masks, and Kitan Image Worship." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013): 91-115.

Steinhardt, Nancy. *Liao Architecture*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1997.  
**Selected chapters**

**Week 8, October 30: Liao State and Society**  
**Annotated Bibliography Due**

Crossley, Pamela. "Outside In: Power, Identity, and the Han Lineage of Jizhou." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 43 (2013): 51-89.

Holmgren, J. "Marriage, Kinship, and Succession under the Ch'i-tan Rulers of the Liao Dynasty." *T'oung pao* (1986): 44-91.

Hu Lin. "A Tale of Five Capitals: Contests for Legitimacy between the Liao and Its Rivals." *Journal of Asian History* 44.2 (2010): 99-127.

Hu Lin. "Perceptions of Liao Urban Landscapes: Political Practices and Nomadic Empires." *Archaeological Dialogues* 18.2 (2011): 223-243.

Jagchid, Sechin. "The Khitans and Their Cities." *Central Asiatic Journal* 25 (1981).

**Week 9, November 6: Inter-state Relations on the Chinese Frontier**

Chen, Xue. "Age of Emperors: Divisible Imperial Authority and the Formation of a "Liao World Order" in Continental East Asia, 900–1250." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 49 (2020): 45-83.

Lau, Nap-Yin. "Waging War for Peace? The Peace Accord between the Song and the Liao in AD 1005." In *Warfare in Chinese History*, edited by Hans van de Ven, 183–221. Leiden: Brill, 2000.

Rossabi, Morris. "Introduction." In *China among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and Its Neighbors, 10th-14th Centuries*, ed. Morris Rossabi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.

Tackett, Nicolas. "Demic Diffusion, Diplomatic Sociability, and an Emergent Trans-National Political Culture in Tenth- and Eleventh-Century Northeast Asia." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 51 (2022): 125-156.

**Week 10, November 13: The Song-Liao Frontier Region**

Chen, Yuan Julian. "Frontier, Fortification, and Forestation: Defensive Woodland on the Song-Liao Border in the Long Eleventh Century." *Journal of Chinese History* 2 (2018): 313-334.

Tackett, Nicolas. *The Origins of the Chinese Nation: Song China and the Forging of an East Asian World Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. **Selected chapters.**

Ong, Chang Woei. "Cocreating a Frontier Region in the Northern Song: The State and Local Strongmen in Hewai." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 51 (2022): 15-38.

Wang, Jinping. "Land and People: The Sixteen Prefectures of Yan and Yun during the Liao-Song-Jin Transition." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 51 (2022): 73-124.

Zhang, Cong Ellen. "Order, Culture, and Local Administration on the Northern Border: Han Qi in Dingzhou (1048–1053)." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 51 (2022): 39-72

### **Week 11**, November 20: The Jin Dynasty

Bol, Peter. "Seeking Common Ground: Han Literati under Jurchen Rule." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 47.2 (1987): 461-538.

Franke, Herbert. "Chinese Texts on the Jurchen: A Translation of the Jurchen Monograph in the *San-ch'ao Pei-meng Hui-pien*." *Zentralasiatische Studien* 9 (1975): 120–186.

Franke, Herbert. "Treaties between Sung and Chin." In *Études Song in memoriam Étienne Balazs*. Paris: Mouton, 1970. Vol. 1, pp. 55-84.

Schneider, Julia. "The Jin Revisited: New Assessment of Jurchen Emperors." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 41 (2011): 343-404.

Tillman, Hoyt Cleveland, and Stephen H. West, eds. *China Under Jurchen Rule: Essays on Chin Intellectual and Cultural History*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995. Read the introduction and one essay of your choice. **Selected chapters**

### **Week 12**, November 27: North China under the Jin and After

Hymes, Robert. "A Tale of Two Sieges: Liu Qi, Li Gao, and Epidemics in the Jin-Yuan Transition." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 50 (2021): 295-363.

Wang, Jinping. *In the Wake of the Mongols: The Making of a New Social Order in North China, 1200–1600*. Harvard University Asia Center, 2018. **Pp. 1-117**.

Iiyama Tomoyasu. "Maintaining Gods in Medieval China: Temple Worship and Local Governance in North China under the Jin and Yuan." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 40 (2010): 71-102.

Iiyama Tomoyasu. "Genealogical Steles in North China during the Jin and Yuan dynasties." *International Journal of Asian Studies* 13.2 (2016): 151–196.

Sloane, Jesse D. "Mapping a Stateless Nation: 'Bohai' Identity in the Twelfth to Fourteenth Centuries." *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* 44 (2014): 365-403.

**Week 13, December 4: Approaches**

Shao-yun Yang. *The Way of the Barbarians: Redrawing Ethnic Boundaries in Tang and Song China*. University of Washington Press, 2019.

Standen, Naomi. "What Nomads Want: Raids, Invasions and the Liao Conquest of 947". In *Mongols, Turks, and Others: Eurasian Nomads and the Sedentary World*, ed. Reuven Amitai and Michal Biran, pp. 129-174. Brill: 2005.

Tao, Jing-shen 陶晉生. "Barbarians or Northerners: Northern Sung Images of the Khitans." In *China among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and Its Neighbors, 10th-14th Centuries*, edited by Morris Rossabi, pp. 66–86. University of California Press, 1983.

Wang Gungwu. "Rhetoric of a Lesser Empire." In *China among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and Its Neighbors, 10th-14th Centuries*, edited by Morris Rossabi, pp. xx. University of California Press, 1983.

**Week 14, December 11: Course Summary**

Let us go back to some classic surveys of the conquest dynasties. How would you revise these chapters? What would you add? Cut? Restructure?

Twitchett, Denis, and Klaus-Peter Tietze. "The Liao." In *The Cambridge History of China*, vol. 6, *Alien Regimes and Border States, 907-1368*, pp. 43-153. Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Franke, Herbert. "The Chin Dynasty." In *The Cambridge History of China*, vol. 6, *Alien Regimes and Border States, 907-1368*, pp. 215-320. Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Tao, Jing-shen. *The Jurchen in Twelfth-Century China: A Study of Sinicization*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977.

**December 21: Final Assignments Due**