

Spring 2023

## EALC 8725: Topics in Song History

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**Seminar meetings:** Mondays, 3:30-6:30, in the Derk Bodde East Asia Seminar Room.  
**Office Hours:** Mondays, 10-11am; Thursdays, 2-3pm; any day by appointment.

This seminar will introduce graduate students to current scholarship on the Song dynasty (960-1276). The course will proceed topically, with each week of the semester addressing one aspect of scholarship on Song history. Readings in English will combine classic works in the field and the most recent contributions, giving students a foundation in how historians have interpreted the Song period and introducing them to major debates within the field. No background in Chinese studies is required.

For the spring 2023 semester, we will focus our attention on questions of information and writing in the formation of Song society and polity. After some general readings on the current state of the field, we will dedicate each week to a major recent monograph or selected articles on Song historiography, changes in social discourse, and the evolving information order.

The semester is divided broadly into four parts:

Part 1 (Weeks 1-4). Introductory readings on the study of Song history. We will understand the foundations for current Song historiography—the Naitō and Hartwell-Hymes hypotheses—and compare those with recent state-of-the-field syntheses on Song politics, economy, and society. This will set the stage for the more current themes to follow.

Part 2 (Weeks 5-7). The writing of history under the Song dynasty. Recent writing on the Song dynasty shows how Song statesmen used court documentation and historical composition/compilation to achieve changing political goals. This has transformed our understanding of Song politics and how we read extant sources.

Part 3 (Weeks 8-10). Information in the Song dynasty. We will review scholarship on printing and publishing under the Song as a prelude to analyzing the Song information order—both current approaches and their predecessors.

Part 4 (Weeks 11-13). Song people writing their worlds. We will close the semester with recent monographs that study how Song writers narrated and made sense of their environment.

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. The length will generally be about 10,000 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 Feb 13. An annotated bibliography will be due March 27. The final paper is due at the end of the semester, May 9.

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 Chinese history survey 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, May 9.

Final grades will be calculated from: in-class performance (30%), final paper (45%), teaching essay (25%).

Students are expected to find and download their own copies of article-length readings that are available electronically through the Penn Libraries. Skilled library use is an important element of our seminar. Other articles and book chapters I will post to our Canvas site. I will order electronic copies for as many of the assigned books as are commercially available. For others, it is important to plan ahead and order print copies through Borrow Direct, EZ Borrow, and Interlibrary Loan. **Important:** If you run into any trouble obtaining readings—or just have questions about library resources—please ask! I'm an information professional.

## Readings

Week 1, Jan. 11: Introduction to the Course

Week 2, Jan. 23: The Tang-Song Transition  
Read in the order: Hisayuki, Hartwell, von Glahn.

Robert M. Hartwell. "Demographic, Political, and Social Transformations of China." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 42 (1982): 365-442.

Miyakawa Hisayuki. "An Outline of the Naitō Hypothesis and Its Effects on Japanese Studies of China." *Far Eastern Quarterly* 14 (1955): 533-52.

Richard von Glahn. "Imagining Pre-modern China." In *The Song-Yuan-Ming Transition in Chinese History*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

Supplementary:

Naitō Konan 内藤湖南. "Gaikatsuteki Tō-Sō jidai kan" 概括的唐宋時代観. *Rekishi to chiri* 歴史と地理 9.5 (1922): 1-12.

### Week 3, January 30: Song Government and Political Economy

Peter J. Golas. "The Sung Fiscal Administration." In *Cambridge History of China*, vol. 5 part 2, *Sung China, 960-1279*, edited by John W. Chaffee and Denis Twitchett, pp. 139-213. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Charles Hartman. "Sung Government and Politics." In *Cambridge History of China*, vol. 5 part 2, *Sung China, 960-1279*, edited by John W. Chaffee and Denis Twitchett, pp. 19-138. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

### Week 4, Feb. 6: Economic and Social Change

Robert Hymes. "Sung Society and Social Change." In *Cambridge History of China*, vol. 5 part 2, *Sung China, 960-1279*, edited by John W. Chaffee and Denis Twitchett, pp. 526-664. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Joseph P. McDermott and Shiba Yoshinobu. "Economic Change in China, 960-1279." In *Cambridge History of China*, vol. 5 part 2, *Sung China, 960-1279*, edited by John W. Chaffee and Denis Twitchett, pp. 321-436. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

### Week 5, Feb. 13: Writing History and Political Conflict

#### **Final Paper Abstract Due**

Ari Levine. *Divided by a Common Language: Factional Conflict in Late Northern Song China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008.

### Week 6, Feb. 20: Writing History and the Song History Master Narrative

Charles Hartman. *The Making of Song Dynasty History: Sources and Narratives, 960-1279 CE*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

### Week 7, Feb. 27: Song Thinkers on History

John W. Chaffee. "The Historian as Critic: Li Hsin-ch'uan." In *Ordering the World: Approaches to State and Society in Sung Dynasty China*, edited by Robert P. Hymes and Conrad Schirokauer, pp. 310-35. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Conrad Schirokauer. "Chu Hsi's Sense of History." In *Ordering the World: Approaches to State and Society in Sung Dynasty China*, edited by Robert P. Hymes and Conrad Schirokauer, pp. 193-220. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Chia-fu Sung. "An Ambivalent Historian: Ouyang Xiu and His *New Histories*." *T'oung Pao* 102.4-5 (2016): 358-406.

March 6: **Spring Break**. No Class

March 13: **AAS Annual Meeting**. No Class

Week 8, March 20: Song Publishing

Susan Cherniack. "Book Culture and Textual Transmission in Sung China." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 54 (1994): 5-125.

Lucille Chia. *Printing for Profit: The Commercial Publishers of Jianyang, Fujian (11th-17th Centuries)*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Asia Center, 2002. **Selections**.

Joseph P. McDermott. "The Ascendance of the Imprint in China." In *Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China*, ed. Cynthia Brokaw and Kai-wing Chow, pp. 55-104. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Week 9, March 27: Social and Political Lives of Song Books  
**Annotated Bibliography Due**

Chu Chuan-yu 朱傳譽. "A History of Chinese Journalism in the Sung Dynasty." *Synopses of Monographical Studies on Chinese History and Social Sciences* 5 (1969): 67-88.

Ronald Egan. "To Count Grains of Sand on the Ocean Floor: Changing Perceptions of Books and Learning in the Song dynasty." In *Knowledge and Text Production in an Age of Print: China, 900-1400*, edited by Lucille Chia and Hilde De Weerd, pp. 33-62. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

T. J. Hinrichs. "Governance through Medical Texts and the Role of Print." In *Knowledge and Text Production in an Age of Print: China, 900-1400*, edited by Lucille Chia and Hilde De Weerd, pp. 217-38. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

John Winkelman. "The Imperial Library in S. Sung China." *American Philosophical Society, Transactions* n.s. 64.8 (1974). In **JSTOR** (just make sure you have the full 1974 publication).

Week 10, April 3: The Information Order in Song China

Hilde De Weerd. *Information, Territory, and Networks: The Crisis and Maintenance of Empire in Song China*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2015.

Week 11, April 10: Writing Cities

Christian de Pee. *Urban Life and Intellectual Crisis in Middle-Period China, 800–1100 CE*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2022. (Available as an open-access book online.)

Week 12, April 17: Writing Manless Women

Hsiao-wen Cheng. *Divine, Demonic, and Disordered: Women without Men in Song Dynasty China*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2021.

Week 13, April 24: Writing Foreigners

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

**May 9: Final Papers and Teaching Essays Due**