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EALC 8820: Sinological Methods

This seminar is designed to acquaint doctoral students with the basic methods and resources of Sinological research. The course will begin with an overview of essential reference works and aids to study, such as dictionaries and concordances, and continue with a survey of the major primary sources for the study of traditional Chinese history. Students are required to demonstrate the use of the methods learned in this course in a research paper, to be presented to the class in the form of a brief lecture at the end of the semester. The written paper is due on May 8.

Only graduate students may enroll in this course. The prerequisites are a reading knowledge of modern Chinese and two years of the classical language. Familiarity with Japanese, though not required, will prove helpful.

The class will meet every Tuesday at 3:30 P.M. in the Derk Bodde East Asian Seminar Room of Van Pelt Library. In addition to the term paper, there will be weekly research assignments relating to the materials covered in the course. There is no final examination.

The main text for the class is “A Guide to Basic Sinological Research Materials,” compiled by the instructor. The text can be downloaded at <https://ealc.sas.upenn.edu/people/paul-r-goldin> (find the link under the “Resources” tab). The password is “EALC8820”; please do not publicize this.

Students are also advised to purchase Endymion Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A New Manual*, fifth edition, Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 84 (Cambridge, Mass., 2017); as well as Ssu-yü Teng and Knight Biggerstaff, *An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Chinese Reference Works*, 3rd edition, Harvard-Yenching Institute Series 2 (Cambridge, Mass., 1971). An earlier work by Wilkinson, *The History of Imperial China: A Research Guide*, Harvard East Asian Monographs 49 (Cambridge, Mass., 1973), though long out of print, is still useful and should be purchased if it is available.

Schedule of Meetings

- Jan. 23. Introduction.
- Jan. 30. Dictionaries and Calendars.
- Feb. 6. Identifying Texts.
- Feb. 13. The Thirteen Classics (*Shih-san ching* 十三經).
- Feb. 20. Using Concordances (with Dr. Fodde-Reguer).
- Feb. 27. Other Classical Texts.
- March 5. NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
- March 12. Fragmentary Texts.
- March 19. The Dynastic Histories (*cheng-shih* 正史) and Other Official Histories.
- March 26. Private Histories.
- April 2. Administrative Sources (with Dr. Vivier).
- April 9. Gazetteers (*fang-chih* 方志).
- April 16. (I) Encyclopaedias (*lei-shu* 類書), Brush Records (*pi-chi* 筆記), and Collected Works (*wen-chi* 文集); (II) Palaeography and Phonology.
- April 23. Student presentations.
- April 30. Student presentations (if necessary).