

2020 Spring

Pro-Seminar II: Research Methodology (16:217:502)

Friday 1:10–4:10 pm
SC-102

Instructor: Peng Liu 刘鹏
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:45–2:45 pm, by appointment,
Scott Hall 337

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the most up-to-date research bibliographies, reference tools, and technologies in the fields of East Asian Studies. It familiarizes student with reference materials and primary sources that are crucial for their study of East Asian civilizations. Through analyzing monographs, delivering presentations, translating original materials, and writing book reviews/research prospectus, students learn the necessary skills to conduct research in their respective sub-fields as well as how to put together a graduate level research paper.

Requirements and Grades:

1. Attendance and classroom participation – 15%
2. Translation practice – 10% (only for students whose working language is Chinese)
3. Presentation – 25%
4. Book review – 20% (for students whose working language is not Chinese, 30%)
5. Research prospectus – 30%

Attendance and classroom participation: Class participation is mandatory. Class participation encompasses 1) attendance; 2) timely completion of reading assignments; 3) active participation in discussions. Students must always bring the reading materials assigned for that day to class. Non-participation in classroom discussion will be treated as absence.

Translation practice: During every meeting, we will work together and translate texts I choose for you. Each student prepares the translation at home and translates part of the text in class.

Presentation: Every student should choose one book in the syllabus as your presentation subject. While doing the presentation, please thoroughly analyze the book and consider the following issues:

- * What is the methodology of the monograph?
- * What primary sources does the author use?
- * How does the author treat these primary sources to make an argument? Does it make sense to you?
- * How do you evaluate the book? What are the strengths and the weakness of the book?
- * How does the book inspire you to do your own research?

Writing exercises: Every student must complete **Two** writing assignments in this course: 1. Book review; 2. Research Prospectus. Please make sure to proofread for grammatical and spelling errors before submitting the paper.

Statement on Academic Integrity

As a member of Rutgers community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. Your paper should be your own original work. If you want to use words or ideas from other sources, make sure you identified the original sources and provide footnotes or parentheses. If you cite from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short, please place it in quotation marks; if you quote a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. Any work that has been submitted for credit in another course is generally not allowed to be submitted in this course unless you have the permission from your instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Students with any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to talk to your instructor after class or during office hours.

Required Textbooks:

You can find most of the readings in the library or online. If you can't, please purchase those books online.

Schedule

Week 1

1/24 Introduction

Part I: Religious Studies

Week 2

1/31 **Introduction to Buddhist Studies**

History & Sources

Week 3

2/7 **Ritual, Popular Literature, and Buddhism**

Reading: Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China*

Week 4

2/14 **Buddhism, History, and Violence**

Reading: Brian Daizen Victoria, *Zen at War*

Week 5

2/21 **Daoist Studies**

History & Sources

Week 6

2/28 Daoism and Visual Culture

Reading: Paul Katz, *Images of the Immortal: The Cult of Lü Dongbin at the Palace of Eternal Joy*

Part II: History

Week 7

3/6 History and Women & Gender Studies

Official histories, Literary works, Biographies, Religious texts, etc.

Week 8

3/13 Women and Shamanism in Korea

Reading: Laurel Kendall, *Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF: South Korean Popular Religion in Motion*

Week 9 Spring break

Week 10

3/27 How to Write Women's History in China

Reading: Susan Mann, *The Talented Women of the Zhang Family*

Week 11

4/3 Book Review Due

Part III: Literature

Week 12

4/10 Transnational Studies of East Asian Literature

Reading: William Hedberg: *The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction: The Water Margin and the Making of a National Canon*

Week 13

4/17 The Strange in Literary Studies

Reading: Rania Huntington, *Alien Kind: Foxes and Late Imperial Chinese Narrative*

Week 14

4/24 Narrating Women's Life and Local Culture in China

Reading: Maram Epstein, *Orthodox Passions Narrating Filial Love during the High Qing*

Week 15

5/1 Presentation of Research Prospectus

Research Prospectus Due 5/10