

Middle Imperial China: The Great Song Transition

I. Course description

The transformation of Chinese civilization during the “Song renaissance” (960-1279) is our major concern for the spring semester. China mentally realigned itself, first because it had to acknowledge other players in the world such as the powerful nomad states along its own northern borders and second because those nomads would occupy the northern half of China during what is called the “Southern Song” (1127-1279). Buddhism, a foreign religion though it had been introduced to China many centuries before the Song period, flourished alongside the indigenous popular pantheon. Furthermore, China underwent internal changes such as the emergence of a vibrant urban culture. Self-representation changed in tandem with the rise of a new social stratum, the *shidafu*, and the literati culture it produced. The change rippled into the fine arts as well.

We will study the new contexts of Chinese civilization through travel essays, cartography, and reports and journals of diplomatic envoys. Tiantai Buddhism, Chan Buddhism and indigenous popular religion will be examined through their primary texts. We will hear about the changes in culture via storytelling and dramatic texts, and via Song cityscape paintings. Our study of new incarnations of Confucian teachings, *xinglixue*, or the “Learning of the nature and principle,” and *daoxue*, or the “Learning of the Way,” examines sophistication of philosophical discourse and China’s second-most famous scholar, Zhu Xi, and his creation of a new Confucian canon. In literature, we will study Song *shi*- and *ci*-poetry. *Shi*-poetry showed expanded topics and the mindset of the new literati class. *Ci*-poetry transformed the very notion of poetics. In art, we will analyze monumental landscape painting, printed illustrations, and Song calligraphy. The Qin/Han unification may have laid the basic foundation of China, but many have argued that the Song gave modern China its distinctive cultural heritage.

II. Course requirements

1. Attending all lectures (which also means keeping 10:05-10:55am open on Wednesdays for additional lectures). All lectures meet in Library 41, which is between the IMC and the VRC in the basement of the Library.
2. Reading / viewing and pondering all assigned readings and/or image galleries before each conference begins. This will include weekly submission of weekly exercises (i.e., reading responses, discussion questions, poetic analyses, visual exploratories) assigned by your conference leader.
3. Attending all conferences, including regular, active, and substantive conference participation.
4. Three short (5-7 pages) analytical papers. Each paper will focus on one week's readings during each of three four-week periods (i.e., weeks 1-4 for the first paper; weeks 5-8 for the second paper; and weeks 9-12 for the third paper).

III. Learning outcomes

Successful completion of this course (which requires fulfilling all of the requirements listed above, as well as submitting weekly exercises and papers before established deadlines) should lead to the following learning outcomes:

1. Via individual reading / viewing and analysis, together with our collective discussion, interpretation and critique, you will become familiar with several major works in the literature, art, philosophy, religion and history of the Song dynasty.
2. Through close reading and understanding of recent scholarship on Song dynasty humanities (in the fields of art history, literary studies, Buddhist studies, historiography), you will develop the various skills necessary to both comprehend and critically respond to these monuments of late medieval Chinese civilization
3. From processes related to designing, writing and editing three papers, you will learn to articulate your interpretations of these canonical works using the language and ideas of professional scholars.
4. Through this study of Chinese humanities, you will learn to question your own habits of mind by encountering the values and assumptions associated with literary, intellectual and political elites of late medieval China.

IV. Faculty

Alexei Ditter	Lecturer	E 114	x 7348
Douglas Fix	Conference leader	E 423	x 7422
Jing Jiang	Lecturer	E 428	x 7376
Hyong Rhew	Lecturer	E 122	x 7392
Michelle Wang	Lecturer, Chair	Lib 323	x 7730
Tobias Zürn	Lecturer	ETC 203	x 7377

V. Texts available for purchase via the book store

The Lotus Sutra. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.

Chu, Hsi [Zhu Xi]. *Learning to be a sage. Selections from the Conversations of Master Chu*, arranged topically. David Gardner, trans. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Tung, Chieh-yüan [Dong Jieyuan]. *Master Tung's Western Chamber Romance*. Chen Li-li, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994, c 1976.

Hong, Mai (1123-1202). *Record of the listener: Selected stories from Hong Mai's Yijian zhi*. Cong Ellen Zhang, trans. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2018.

VI. Weekly course schedule:

Note: Starred items below are *optional* readings.

Week One: Song-Liao relations

Lecture: Monday, August 30: Douglas Fix

Major dates in Song relations with the Liao & Jin states. **Course moodle**

Wright, David. "Embassy reports." *From war to diplomatic parity in eleventh-century China*. Leiden: Brill, 2005. Pp. 175-197. **Ebook**, and Reed: DS751.3 W75 2005

Lu, Chen [Lu, Zhen]. "Ch'eng-yao lu." *The Ambassadors records: Eleventh-century reports of Sung embassies to the Liao*. David Wright, trans. Papers on Inner Asia, No. 29. Bloomington: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, Indiana University, 1998. Pp. 21-47. **Course moodle** and Reed: DS751 W74 1998

Tackett, Nicholas. "Diplomacy and cosmopolitan socialability." *The origins of the Chinese nation: Song China and the forging of an East Asian world order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Pp. 31-73. **Ebook** and Reed: DS751.3 .T33 2017

Lou, Yue (1137-1213). "A diary of my journey to the north." Stephen West, trans. **Course moodle or url:** http://xirugu.com/Lou_Yue.html

Tackett, Nicholas. "Bilateral boundaries." *The origins of the Chinese nation: Song China and the forging of an East Asian world order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Pp. 105-135. **Ebook** and Reed: DS DS751.3 .T33 2017

* Reference maps for Song-Liao and Song-Jin relations week. **Course moodle** (There is a separate section on the course Moodle that contains **maps for use during the entire semester**. Please make use of that resource.

* De Weerd, Hilde. "Maps and memory: Readings of cartography in twelfth- and thirteenth-century Song China." *Imago Mundi* 61, ii (2009): 145-167. **JSTOR**

Week Two: Tiantai Buddhism

September 6, Labor Day: No classes

Lecture: Wednesday, September 8: Tobias Zürn

Gregory, Peter. "The vitality of Buddhism in the Sung." *Buddhism in the Sung*. Peter Gregory and Daniel Getz, eds. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1999. Pp. 1-20. **Course moodle & Reserves:** BQ640 B83 1999

The Lotus Sutra. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. Chapters 1-7, 10-14, 20, 23, 25-28. **Text and Reserves & Reed stacks:** BQ2052 E5 W38 1993

* Lotus Sutra frontpieces: <http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/5992/lightbox>

* Schirokauer, Conrad and Miranda Brown. "China during the Song: 960-1279." *A brief history of Chinese civilization*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006. Pp. 136-167. **Course moodle & Library Reserves: DS721 S3675 2005**

Week Three: Song dynasty shi-poetry

[Lecture: Monday, September 13: Hyong Rhew](#)

"The Song Dynasty: Period introduction." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 553-558. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks: PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

"Selected *shi*-poems of seven Song poets" -- Mei Yaochen (梅堯臣, 1002-1060), Ouyang Xiu (歐陽修, 1007-1072), Wang Anshi (王安石, 1021-1086), Su Shi (蘇軾, 1037-1011), Huang Tingjian (黃庭堅, 1045-1105), Yang Wanli (楊萬里, 1127-1206), Lu You (陸游, 1125-1209). Hyong Rhew, et al., trans. **Course moodle**

Ouyang, Xiu. "Remarks on poetry: Shih-hua." *Readings in Chinese literary thought*. Stephen Owen, trans. Cambridge: Harvard Council on East Asian Studies, 1992. Pp. 359-389. **Ebook and Reed: PL2262.2 R4 1992**

Week Four: Monumental landscapes

[Lecture: Monday, September 20: Michelle Wang](#)

Image gallery: <http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/9995/lightbox>

Kuo, Hsi [Guo Xi]. *An essay on landscape painting*. Sakanishi Shio, trans. London: John Murray, 1935. **Course moodle and Reed: ND1366 K86 1935**

Jing, Hao. "Bi fa ji" (Notes on the method for the brush). *Ways with words: Writing about reading texts from early China*. Pauline Yu et al., eds. Berkeley & Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 200. Pp. 203-213, 275. **Ebook and Reed: Z1003.5.C45 W39 2000**

Rawson, Jessica. "The origins of Chinese mountain painting: Evidence from archaeology." *Proceedings of the British Academy* 117 (2002): 1-48. **Course moodle**

Barnhart, Richard. "Figures in landscape." *Archives of Asian Art* 42 (1989): 62-70. **JSTOR**

Foong, Ping. "Ink landscape as cultural capital at court." *The efficacious landscape: On the authorities of painting at the Northern Song court*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2015. Pp. 112-138. **Ebook and Reed: ND1366.715 .F66 2014**

Fong, Wen C. "Of nature and art: Monumental landscape." *Beyond representations: Chinese painting and calligraphy, 8th-14th century*. New York; New Haven: Metropolitan

Museum of Art & Yale University Press, 1992. Pp. 71-118. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks:** ND1043.3 .F66 1992

- * "The landscape texts." *Early Chinese texts on painting*. Susan Bush & Hsio-yen Shih, eds. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985. Pp. 141-190. **Ebook** and Reed: ND1500 E25 1985

Week Five: Chan Buddhism

[Lecture: Monday, September 27: Tobias Zürn](#)

Schlütter, Morten. "Chan Buddhism in the Song: Some background." *How Zen became Zen: The dispute over enlightenment and the formation of Chan Buddhism in Song-dynasty China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008. Pp. 13-30. **Course moodle** and Reed: BQ9262.9 C5 S35 2008

The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch. Translated from the Chinese of Tsung-pao. John R. McRae, trans. Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2000. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks:** BQ9299 H854 L613 2000. **Note:** This is also available online from Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (www.bdk.or.jp/document/dgtl-dl/dBET_T2008_PlatformSutra_2000.pdf)

- * *The Blue Cliff record*. Thomas and J.C. Cleary, eds. Boulder: Shambhala, 2005. Pp. 1-17 (only the first two cases). **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks:** BQ 9289 Y823 Y83 2005

- * *The origins of Buddhist monastic codes in China: An annotated translation and study of the Chanyuan qinggui*. Yifa, trans. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002. Pp. 112-149, 190-220. **Ebook** and Reed: BQ9295 Z653 Y54 2002

Week Six: Song cities, cityscapes, and capital journals.

[Lecture: Monday, October 4: Jeffrey Moser, Assistant Professor of Art and Architecture, Brown University](#)

Image archive: The *Qingming shanghe tu* handscroll:
<http://academic.reed.edu/chinese/qingming/scroll/>. Note: Login and password will be provided by your conference leader.

Meng, Yuanlao. "Preface." *A record of dreaming a dream of splendors past in the Eastern Capital* [from *Dongjing meng Hua lu*]. Stephen West, trans. c. 2008. **Course moodle**

Meng, Yuanlao. "Recollections of the Northern Song capital" [from *Dongjing meng Hua lu*]. Stephen West, trans. *Hawai'i reader in traditional Chinese culture*. Victor Mair, et al, eds. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005. Pp. 405-422. **Ebook** and Reed: DS721 H338 2005

* Meng, Yuanlao. "Section 9.3." *A record of dreaming a dream of splendors past in the Eastern Capital* [from *Dongjing meng Hua lu*]. Stephen H. West, trans. c. 2008. **Course moodle**

Preface to "The attractions of the capital" [from *Ducheng jisheng*]. Moule, A.C. "'The wonders of the capital' roughly translated." *New China Review* 3, i (1921): 12-17. **Course moodle**

"The attractions of the capital" [from *Ducheng jisheng*]. *Chinese civilization: A sourcebook*. 2nd ed. Patricia Ebrey, ed. New York: The Free Press, 1993. Pp. 178-185. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks: DS721 C517 1993**

Tsao, Hsingyuan. "Unraveling the mystery of the handscroll 'Qingming shanghe tu'." *Journal of Song and Yuan Studies* 33 (2003): 155-179. **JSTOR**

* Maps of Chang'an, Kaifeng, and Lin'an. **Course moodle**

* Zhang, Zeduan. *Qing ming shang he tu* 清明上河圖 [A riverside scene at Qingming festival]. Yang Dongsheng, ed. Tianjin: Tianjin Renmin Meishu, 2009. **Reserves: ND1049 C4525 Z536 2009**

Week Seven: 'Day Trip' Essays and Travel Diaries

[Lecture: Monday, October 11: Douglas Fix](#)

"Accounts of visits (*you-ji*)," and "Account of Stone Bell Mountain." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 610-14, 622-24. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks: PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

Su, Shi. "The poetic exposition on Red Cliff," and "The second poetic exposition on Red Cliff." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 292-294, 675-76. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks: PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

Zhang, Cong Ellen. "Introduction." *Transformative journeys: Travel and culture in Song China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2011. Pp. 1-17. **Ebook and Reed: DS751.3 Z4349 2011**

Fan, Chengda. "Diary 2: Register of mounting a simurgh (*Canyuan lu*)."
On the road in twelfth century China: The travel diaries of Fan Chengda (1126-1193). James M. Hargett, trans. Stuttgart, Franz Steiner, 1989. Pp. 100-102, 180-247. **Course moodle & Reserves: PL2687 F3 H3 1989**

Lu, You. *Grand canal, great river: The travel diary of a twelfth-century Chinese poet*. Translated with a commentary by Philip Watson. London: Frances Lincoln, 2007; 1st edition. Pp. 58-85; 111-143. **Course moodle & Reserves: PL2687.L8 Z4613 2007**

Egan, Ronald. "When there is a parallel text in prose: Reading Lu You's 1170 Yangzi River journey in poetry and prose." *Reading medieval Chinese poetry: Text, context, and culture*. Paul Kroll, ed. Leiden: Brill, 2015. Pp. 221-250. **Ebook**

* Lu, Yu (1125-1209). "Book two," and "Book four." *South China in the twelfth century: A translation of Lu Yu's travel diaries, July 3 - December 6, 1170*. Chang Chun-shu and Joan Smythe, trans. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1981. Pp. 65-84, 107-132. **Reserves: PL2687 L8 Z46513 1981**

Week Eight: Fall break

Week Nine: Song ci-poetry

[Lecture: October 25: Hyong Rhew](#)

Yeh, Chia-ying. "Ambiguity and the female voice in 'Hua-chien songs'." *Studies in Chinese poetry*. James Hightower and Florence Chia-ying Yeh. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 1998. Pp. 115-149, plus notes. **Ebook** and Reed: PL2308 H54 1998

"Song ci-poetry selections." Hyong Rhew, trans. [Selections](#): Individual section instructors will assign ci-poems from male poets. **Course moodle**

Li, Qingzhao. "On song lyrics." *The works of Li Qingzhao*. Ronald Egan, trans. Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2019. Pp. 54-59. **Course moodle & Reserves PL2682 A2 2019**

Li, Qingzhao. *The works of Li Qingzhao*. Ronald Egan, trans. Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2019. [Selections](#): 3.1 南歌子 (94-5); 3.3 漁家傲 (98-9); 3.4 如夢令 (100-01); 3.12 鳳凰臺上憶吹簫 (110-13); 3.13 一翦梅 (114-5); 3.18 憶王孫 (122-3); 3.19 臨江仙 (124-5); 3.20 醉華陰 (126-7); 3.22 訴衷情 (128-9); 3.30 聲聲慢 (142-5); 3.31 永遇樂 (144-7); 3.32 憶秦娥 (146-9); 3.33 添字醜奴兒 (148-9); 3.36 蝶戀花 (154-5); 3.42 武陵春 (162-3); 3.62 減字木蘭花 (192-3). **Course moodle & Reserves: PL2682 .A2 2019**

Egan, Ronald. "'Song lyrics, part 1.'" *The burden of female talent: The poet Li Qingzhao and her history in China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2015. Pp. 322-355. **Ebook** and Reed: PL2682.Z5 E38 2013

Week Ten: Song calligraphy

[Lecture: Monday, November 1: Michelle Wang](#)

Image gallery: **Course moodle**

Su, Shi. "The poetic exposition on Red Cliff," and "The second poetic exposition on Red Cliff." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 292-294, 675-76. **Course moodle (for Week 7), Reserves & Reed stacks: PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

Bush, Susan. "The views of Northern Sung literati. Su Shih." *The Chinese literati on painting: Su Shih (1037) to Tung Ch'i-ch'ang (1555-1636)*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971. Pp. 29-43. **Ebook**, and Reed: ND1043 .B88 1971

Harrist, Robert. "Reading Chinese calligraphy." *The embodied image: Chinese calligraphy from the John B. Elliot collection*. Robert E. Harrist and Fong Wen, eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. Pp. 2-27. **Course moodle & Reserves: NK3634.A2 H375 1999**

Fong, Wen C. "Chinese calligraphy: Theory and history." *The embodied image: Chinese calligraphy from the John B. Elliot collection*. Robert E. Harrist and Fong Wen, eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. Pp. 28-84. **Course moodle & Reserves: NK3634.A2 H375 1999**

Hay, John. "The human body as a microcosmic source of macrocosmic values in calligraphy." *Theories of the arts in China*. Susan Bush and Christian Murck, eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983. Pp. 74-102. **Course moodle & Reserves: NX583.A1 T48 1983**

* Fong, Wen C. "The art of the scholar officials." *Beyond representations: Chinese painting and calligraphy, 8th-14th century*. New York; New Haven: Metropolitan Museum of Art & Yale University Press, 1992. Pp. 119-172. **Reserves and Reed: ND1043.3 .F66 1992**

Week Eleven: Book and print culture

[Lecture: Monday, November 8: Alexei Ditter](#)

Image gallery #1: <http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/6003/lightbox>

Li, Qingzhao. 金石錄後序 "Afterword to *Catalogue of inscriptions on metal and stone*." *The works of Li Qingzhao*. Ronald Egan, trans. Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2019. Pp. 68-87. **Course moodle & Reserves: PL2682 .A2 2019**

* "Interlude: Li Qing-zhao's epilogue to *Records on metal and stone*." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 591-596. **Reserves and Reed: PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

Chia, Lucille. "The physical appearance of Jianyang woodblock imprints." *Printing for profit: The commercial publishers of Jianyang, Fujian (11th – 17th centuries)*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2002. Pp. 24-62, 327-339. **Ebook and Reed: Z244.6 C6 C438 2002**

McDermott, Joseph. "Book collecting in Jiangxi during the Song dynasty." *Knowledge and text production in an age of print: China, 900-1400*. Lucille Chia and Hilde De Weerd, eds. Leiden: Brill, 2011. Pp. 63-101. **Ebook and Reed: Z186 C5 F57 2007**

Image gallery #2, Lotus Sutra frontpieces: <http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/5992/lightbox>

Huang, Shih-shan Susan. "Early Buddhist illustrated prints in Hangzhou." *Knowledge and text production in an age of print: China, 900-1400*. Lucille Chia and Hilde De Weerd, eds. Leiden: Brill, 2011. Pp. 135-165. **Ebook** and **Reed**: Z186 C5 F57 2007

Poon, M.S. "The printer's colophon in Sung China, 960-1279." *The Library Quarterly* 43, i (1973):39-52. **JSTOR**

* Zhang Xiuming. *The history of Chinese printing*. Revised by Han Qi; translated by Chen Jiehua, et al. Paramus: Homa & Sekey Books, 2009. **Reserves**: Z186 C5 Z44413 2009

* *Da guan: Song ban tu shu te zhan* 大觀：宋版圖書特展 [Grand view: Special exhibition of Sung dynasty rare books]. Taipei: National Palace Museum, [2006] **Reserves**: Oversize Z1029 G73 2006

Week Twelve: Reading and Sageliness

[Lecture: Monday, November 15: Doug Fix](#)

"Ouyang Xiu: 'Essay on fundamentals'." *Sources of Chinese tradition*. New and revised edition. T. de Bary & I. Bloom, comp. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. Pp. 590-595 in Vol 1. **Course moodle & Reserves**: DS721 D37 1999, v. 1

Chu, Hsi [ZHU Xi]. *Learning to Be a Sage: Selections from the Conversations of Master Chu, Arranged Topically*. Daniel K. Gardner, trans. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. **Text, Ebook** and **Reed**: B128 C52 E5 1990

* "Neo-Confucianism: The philosophy of human nature and the way of the sage." *Sources of Chinese tradition*. New and revised edition. T. de Bary & I. Bloom, comp. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. Pp. 667-719 in Vol 1. **Reserves**: DS721 D37 1999, v. 1

Week Thirteen: Performance literature

[Lecture: Monday, November 22: Jing Jiang](#)

Yuan, Zhen. "Ying-ying's story." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 540-549. **Course moodle, Reserves & Reed stacks**: PL2658 E1 A814 1996

Tung, Chieh-yüan [Dong Jieyuan]. *Master Tung's Western chamber romance (Tung hsi-hsiang chu-kung-tiao): A Chinese chantefable*. Li-li Ch'en, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994, c1976. **Text & Reserves**: PL2687 T9 H813 1994; PL2687 T9 H813 1976a

Suzhou Pingtan (excerpt): Story of the Western Wing. Video. **Url**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V31qJ3W0QOs>

- * "Yingying zhuan: Yuan Zhen, 'Biography of Yingying'." *Ways with words: Writing about reading texts from early China*. Pauline Yu, ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. Pp. 173-201. **Ebook** and Reed: Z1003.5.C45 W39 2000

Week Fourteen: Song tales

[Lecture: Monday, November 29: Alexei Ditter](#)

Hong, Mai (1123-1202). *Record of the listener: Selected stories from Hong Mai's Yijian zhi*. Cong Ellen Zhang, trans. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2018. Selections: Individual section instructors will assign tales to read and analyze. **Text, Ebook & Reserves**: PL2687 H887 A2 2018

- * Hong, Mai. *Record of the listener: Selections of Chinese supernatural stories*. Alister Inglis, trans. San Francisco: Long River Press, 2012. Reed: PL2687 H887 I213 2012