

## **IHSS 6001: RESEARCH SEMINAR ON EAST ASIAN CULTURE**

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### **Overview:**

This course involves intensive reading, discussion, and writing exercises aimed at assisting HKIHS first-year graduate students with their individualized methodological and theoretical training and to broaden and deepen their understanding of how their research interests relate to other disciplinary and thematic fields. Compiling and mastering a substantial reading list will be a central feature, and a state-of-the-field essay will be submitted at the end of the term. All students will read and discuss their classmates' essays.

**This schedule is subject to change, contingent on public health regulations.**

### **Dates of Meetings (Tuesdays, 3-5pm in Room 201)**

06 September: Introduction.

13 September: Response papers and discussion of *A Companion to Chinese History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017). [PDF download available via Moodle.](#)

20 September: Response papers and discussion of *A Companion to Chinese History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017).

27 September: Response papers and discussion of *A Companion to Chinese History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017).

04 October: public holiday

11 October: READING WEEK

18 October : First essay presentation and discussion.

25 October: TBA

08 November: Second essay presentation and discussion.

29 November: state-of-the-field essay presentation and discussion.

## ASSESSMENT

Attendance & Participation 10%

- Students are expected to attend the designated meetings. Active, thoughtful participation in all aspects of the course are important. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. **All students are required to read each other's work and be prepared to comment and discuss.**
- **HKIHSS RPG students are required to attend all Institute talks, lectures, seminars, and conferences.**

Response papers 30%

First essay 20%

Second essay 20%

State-of-the-field essay 20%

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Response papers:** Each student will write a concise essay to answer the questions posed for the readings assigned from *A Companion to Chinese History*.

- **First response paper:** Read the Introduction and Part I “States of the Field.”
  - **Questions:** Explain how the scholarly inquiry of Chinese history developed in different regions and time periods, and what impact (if any) “domestic” historical, political, and/or academic approaches and concerns may have had on them. Identify both commonalities and particularities in the types of questions that have shaped the study of Chinese history in the times and spaces covered by the readings.
  - **Due:** via Moodle TBA.
- **Second response paper:** Read Part II “Chronologies.”
  - **Questions:** Explain how each author in this section approaches the concept of periodizing Chinese history. What are the different factors involved in each case of temporal categorization, and how are these temporal frameworks significant and/or productive, if at all?
  - **Due:** via Moodle TBA.
- **Third response paper:** Read Part III “Themes and Approaches.”
  - **Questions:** Choose at least six topics (do not choose topics directly related to your research project). Explain how the major research questions addressed by these thematic and intellectual approaches further enhance our understanding of Chinese history. Identify gaps and issues that are missing or glossed over in these discussions, and how they might offer new insight and understanding of China's past.
  - **Due:** via Moodle TBA.

**First and Second Essays:** Each student will write two essays of scholarly criticism assessing and comparing key themes, issues based on the readings to be assigned.

Style guide:

- Essay: 10-15 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 Font, regular margins, paginated (with full citations and bibliography—these are not included in page count). Historians must use Chicago style.
- **Due** via Moodle TBA.

**State-of-the-field essay:** Each student will write a state-of-the-field essay, based on a reading list created in discussion with their primary supervisor, exploring the major questions and methodological issues of their research field, and expand on their own approach to their work. Address the following questions: 1) what major issue did the author set out to address? 2) What was the source base for the evidence? 3) What are the main arguments of the book/article, and how did it make its case? 4) How does it contribute to, advance, engage with, or develop a new vantage point on a particular debate/field/subfield? 5) How do you situate your own work?

**Do not** write a book review. Rather, selectively pursue a particular theme/subtheme, point of contention or argument that you consider significant and interesting by demonstrating familiarity with the arguments and main contents of the works.

- Essay: 10-15 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 Font, regular margins, paginated (with full citations and bibliography—these are not included in page count).
- **Due** via Moodle on TBA.

NOTES: All assignments are due by the specified date and time. Unless there is a documented campus-wide power or internet outage, technological problems will not excuse you from the deadline. No late submissions will be accepted.

**Plagiarism: If you copy other people's work without proper acknowledgement, you will fail this course.** Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: copying/summarizing/extracting information and ideas from books, journals, newspapers, websites (incl. Wikipedia), and other printed and electronic sources without acknowledging the source of information. Papers must be uploaded to Turnitin.com by the due date. Instructions will follow.