

# Sequenced Assignments

Ann Waltner

## History 3464 (EAS 3464): Early Modern China

### Requirements

There is no midterm in this course. Rather, there will be a variety of writing assignments due throughout the course. The assignments fall into two categories: informal and formal. Informal writing assignments may be written by hand (typing is greatly appreciated, but not required). At several points during the quarter, you will be asked to post your informal assignment electronically on the class listserv. I will collect and comment briefly on the informal assignments. If you do the assignment thoughtfully you will get full credit for it. If it is late or carelessly done, you will not get full credit. The formal assignments must be typed, and you should be attentive to spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. The informal assignments and their due dates are as follows. The assignments are listed on the syllabus on the day that they are due.

April 3: paragraph on "The Pearl Shirt Reencountered"

April 10: map

April 15: timeline

April 17: paragraph on Zheng He. Group I post paragraphs on listserv, Groups II and III may turn them in on paper.

May 1: paragraph on paper topic for paper on *Traditional Chinese Stories*

May 6: paragraph on museum trip

May 8: paragraph on Huang (for those not writing papers on Huang). Group II post paragraphs on listserv, Groups I and III may turn them in on paper.

May 15: paragraph on Spence (for those not writing papers on Spence). Group III post paragraphs on listserv, Groups I and II may turn them in on paper.

May 27: (in class) paragraph on Bell library trip

June 3: Post one discussion question on the listserv to guide our discussion of *Chinese Society in the Eighteenth Century*.

Keep copies of your informal assignments: you may be asked to refer to them when you write your final exam.

**There are two formal assignments:** A 5-7 page essay on either *1587: A Year of No Significance* or *Death of Woman Wang*. Your essay should address some of the following issues:

- What is the central point of the book?
- What are the techniques that the author uses to convey his central point?
- What level of society is the author talking about?
- What kinds of sources does the author use in writing the book?
- Are you persuaded of the validity of the author's point of view?
- Given the same sources that the author had available to him, how might you have constructed a different argument?
- Find reviews of the books that appeared in scholarly journals shortly after their publication. What do you think of the criticisms scholars made of the books? Use any standard footnoting format in citing the reviews.

If you choose to write on Huang's *1587*, the paper will be due May 6. If you choose to write on Spence's *Woman Wang*, the paper will be due May 15. If you would like to turn in either paper earlier than the due date, you may.

A 5-7 page paper on some aspect of the short stories in *Traditional Chinese Stories*. We will regard these stories as an archive of information on social attitudes in the late Ming dynasty. You should keep careful notes on these stories as you read them. I will distribute charts that you may use to keep notes on—if you find some other way of taking notes to be more convenient, that's fine. You should start thinking fairly early on about what you want to write your paper on. You will be asked to turn in a paragraph on the topic you wish to pursue on May 1. The week of May 20 we will discuss drafts of the papers, which will be due on June 5.

### **Extraordinary Sessions**

We will take a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2400 Third Ave South, 870-3086) on April 29. The museum visit should not require much more time than the scheduled class time, but in the event that you cannot attend that session, you will need to attend the museum on your own. On May 6 you will turn in a paragraph on an object in the museum made in China during the time period of this course. The Museum is open 10-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; 10-9 on Thursday; 12-5 on Sunday, and is closed on Monday. Admission is free.

During the eighth week of class, we will go to the Bell library (located on the top floor of the Wilson library) and look at books about China produced during the time period of this course. We will also look at some Ming books that our library owns. You will be asked to write a paragraph about what you saw in class on May 27.