

Spring 2008 **HIS 3843 MIGRATION AND HISTORY: THE GLOBAL CHINESE**

Name: _____

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15-1:30pm

Web CE 6 chat room, Friday, 1-2pm

Class

BB 3.04.06

TR 11am-12:15pm

According to various estimates, over 30 million people of Chinese ancestry live outside Mainland China and Taiwan at the dawn of the new millennium. The ethnic Chinese are one of most remarkable human diasporas that helped shape the modern world. From a trading minority of old, through the rise of European empires in the early modern, to the age of the great migrations of the late 1800s, and now, another century later, in the contemporary era of intensified mobility and increasingly porous borders, the Chinese had long been and still are on the move. This course on the Chinese diaspora is a study of human mobility, of travels near and far, of personal dreams and family aspirations, of encounters between different societies and cultures, and of adaptation and accommodation in every conceivable arena of human activity, economic pursuit, and social behavior.

This upper-division history course is designed for students to explore the geographic reach of Chinese migratory activities around the globe, even though we will refer most often to Southeast Asia and the Americas because these two regions were historically the principal arena of Chinese overseas activities. The approach is historical, seeking to tackle questions of origins, of processes, and of change across space and time, even as we draw on a wide array of disciplinary perspectives – such as sociology, anthropology, ethnic studies, to name just a few – to inform our inquiry.

Students are NOT expected to have much prior exposure to the subject. Our expectations are high but reasonable. In terms of **learning objectives**, this class will offer students an opportunity to:

1. Develop a general knowledge on the subject of the Chinese diaspora, including an outline of major developments within a chronological framework
2. Appreciate underlying concepts and key issues in the study of migration, such as the importance of social and business networks in different migration contexts, community and identity formation, the salience of race and ethnicity as historical constructs, the persistent influence of the sending country, and the critical response of the receiving society
3. Construct meaningful comparisons among Chinese migrants in different places and over times, and between Chinese and other migrant groups
4. Cultivate critical thinking and analytical skills in reading and writing

The following books are required for the course:

Lynn Pan, Sons of the Yellow Emperor

Erika Lee, At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943

Wing Chung Ng, The Chinese in Vancouver, 1945-80: The Pursuit of Identity and Power

Ronald Skeldon, ed., Reluctant Exiles? Migration from Hong Kong and the New Overseas Chinese

Frank Pieke, et al, Transnational Chinese: Fujianese Migrants in Europe

In addition, there are a number of journal articles and book chapters assigned throughout the semester. They are available for download on Web CE in due course.

Course agenda:

January 15, 17, 22, 24

Part I – Introduction to the course, contemporary context and historical background

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapter 1

Dudley Poston, Michael Mao, and Mei-Yu Yu, "The Global Distribution of the Overseas Chinese Around 1990," in Hong Liu, ed., The Chinese Overseas, I: 201-216

James Lee, "Migration and Expansion in Chinese History," McNeill and Adams, eds., Human Migration, 20-47

Philip Kuhn, "Why China Historians Should Study the Chinese Diaspora, and Vice-versa," Journal of Chinese Overseas 2,2 (2006): 163-172

Wang Gungwu, "Patterns of Chinese Migration in Historical Perspective," in Hong Liu, ed., I: 33-49

January 29, 31, February 5, 7, 12

Part II – On the edges of empires: Imperial China, Western expansion and colonialism through the nineteenth century

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapters, 2-4

G.W. Skinner, "Creolized Chinese Society in Southeast Asia," in Hong Liu, ed., III: 3-44

Carl Trocki, "Boundaries and Transgressions: Chinese Enterprise in 18th- and 19th- century Southeast Asia," in Liu Hong, ed., III: 45-68

Evelyn Hu-Dehart, "Coolies, Shopkeepers, Pioneers: The Chinese of Mexico and Peru (1849-1930)," in Liu Hong, ed., III: 325-346

February 14, 19, 21, 26

Part III – The “White Wall was built”: Exclusion and the ideology of race

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapter 5

Erika Lee, At America’s Gates

C. Y. Choi, “Chinese Migration 1901-1947: Under the Commonwealth Immigration Restriction Act 1901,” In Liu Hong, ed., III: 264-280

Kay Anderson, “The Idea of Chinatown: The power of place and institutional practice in the making of a racial category,” in Hong Liu, ed., II: 401-431

February 28, March 4, 6, 11, 13

Part IV – Chinese nationalism and migrant communities, late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapters 6-10

Prasenjit Duara, “Transnationalism and the Predicament of Sovereignty, China, 1900-1945,” in Hong Liu, ed., I: 373-397

Madeline Hsu, “Migration and Native Place: *Qiaokan* and the Imagined Community of Taishan County, Guangdong, 1893-1993,” in Hong Liu, IV: 27-56

Huang Jiangli, “Entanglement of Business and Politics in the Chinese Diaspora: Interrogating the Wartime Patriotism of Aw Boon Haw,” Journal of Chinese Overseas, 2,1 (2006): 79-110

Yen Ching-hwang, “Overseas Chinese nationalism in Singapore and Malaya 1877-1912,” in Hong Liu, ed., IV: 137-162

Ta Chen, “Livelihood,” in Hong Liu, ed., IV: 3-26

March 27, April 1, 3

Part V – Red China, the Chinese Overseas and the Cold War

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapters 11-14, and Afterword

Wing Chung Ng, Chinese in Vancouver

Stephen Fitzgerald, “China and the Overseas Chinese: Perceptions and Policies,” Hong Liu, ed., IV: 274-309

Leo Suryadinata, “Ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia: Overseas Chinese, Chinese Overseas or Southeast Asians?” in Hong Liu, ed., III: 88-106

April 8, 10, 15, 17

Part VI – The rise of the peripheries: Hong Kong and “Greater China”

Readings:

Lynn Pan, Chapters 16-end, including epilogue
 Ronald Skeldon, ed., Reluctant Exiles?

April 22, 24, 29

Part VII – Globalization and the new “Chinese Diaspora”

Readings:

Frank Pieke, et al, Transnational Chinese
 Xiao-huang Yin, “Diverse and Transnational: Chinese (PRC) Immigrants in the U.S.”
Journal of Chinese Overseas, 3.1 (2007): 122-145
 Jia Gao, “Migrant Transnationality and Its Evolving Nature: A Case Study of Mainland
 Chinese Migrants in Australia,” Journal of Chinese Overseas, 2.2 (2006): 193-219
 Metto Thuno, “Reaching Out and Incorporating Chinese Overseas: The Trans-territorial
 Scope of the PRC by the end of the 20th Century,” in Hong Liu, ed., IV: 329-351
 Xiang Biao, “Emigration from China: A Sending Country Perspective,” in Hong Liu, ed.,
 IV: 352-378

Evaluation

Assessment in this class is based entirely on written assignments/presentations spread across the semester. There is NO exam. Essay questions and instructions will be available on Web CE about 2 weeks before the assignment is due.

Part I - Short reflective essay, 500 words	5%
Part II - Critique of lecture and readings, 750 words	15%
Part III - Synthetic essay on readings and films, 1000 words	20%
Part IV - Reflective essay, 1000 words	20%
Part V or VII - Reflective essay 1000 words	20%
Part VI - Team project	20%

90% and above = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D Below 60% = F

Fall 2012

Cantonese Opera: An exploration in social history (a course outline)

Instructor: Dr. Wing Chung Ng

This course introduces students to the history of Cantonese opera as a popular entertainment in Cantonese society. It focuses on the issue of institutional development and adaptation, paying attention to how Cantonese opera had evolved since its origins as a form of local theater in Guangdong in the Ming-Qing period. The internal organization of the opera community, the functions of the performing troupe, the role of actors in society, the involvement of commercial capitals, the relationship with state authorities, and popular receptions in local society are important topics to be explored. The course is organized chronologically to suggest a timeline, even though it will examine the early part of the twentieth century in greater depth as this was the formative period when Cantonese opera acquired many “definitive” features still discernible today.

The following is a list of our learning objectives. This course will provide students an opportunity to:

1. Develop a historical outline of Cantonese opera, with an understanding of the principal features and developments over time;
2. Acquire basic knowledge of the internal dynamics of the opera community, such as troupe organization, role-types, and the functions of the opera guild;
3. Cultivate a historical perspective on critical issues such the importance of the performance context, the role of ritual opera, the urbanization of popular theater, the interaction with the state, and audience analysis;
4. Encounter live performance on field trip(s);
5. Learn to interpret historical sources in the form of documents or artifacts.

The course is divided chronologically into three parts. Each topic will take about one week:

Part I: Historical background to about 1900

1. The Ming-Qing origin of local opera in the Guangdong
2. Local opera and the imperial state
3. Red boat and ritual opera in rural Guangdong in the late nineteenth century
4. Institutional development of an opera community: the guild organization

Readings:

Chan Sau Yan, Xianggang yueju daolun (Cantonese opera in Hong Kong). Hong Kong: Cantonese Opera Research Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1999.

Lai Bojiang, Guangdong xiqu jiangshi (A brief history of operas in Guangdong). Guangzhou: Guangdong Renmin Chubanshe, 2001.

Barbara Ward, "Not Merely Players: Drama, Art and Ritual in Traditional China," Man (n.s.) (1979) 14: 18-39.

Barbara Ward, "The Red Boats of the Canton Delta: A Historical Chapter in the Sociology of Chinese Regional Drama," in Proceedings of the International Conference on Sinology, 233-57. Taipei: Academia Sinica, 1981.

Part II: The first half of the twentieth century

1. Popular theater and the anti-dynastic movement
2. Merchant capital and commercialization of Cantonese opera
3. Guangzhou-Hong Kong city troupes of the 1920s
4. From itinerant performers to opera stars
5. Actresses and gender dynamics on the Cantonese stage
6. Traditional opera and the new media: gramophone, radio and movies
7. Popular theater in the Cantonese Diaspora

Readings:

Virgil K.Y. Ho, "Cantonese Opera as a Mirror of Society," in Ho, Understanding Canton: Rethinking Popular Culture in the Republican Period, 301-353. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005

Ng Wing Chung, "Chinatown Theatre as Transnational Business: New Evidence from Vancouver during the Exclusion Era," BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly 148 (2005-6), 25-54.

Ng Wing Chung, and Chan Chak Lui, eds., Yueju liushinian (Sixty years of Cantonese opera: Chan Fei Nong's memoir). Hong Kong: Cantonese Opera Research Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong, revised edition, 2007.

Nancy Rao, 2000. "Racial Essences and Historical Invisibility: Chinese Opera in New York, 1930," Cambridge Opera Journal 12.2, 135-162.

Nancy Rao, 2002. "Songs of the Exclusion Era: New York Chinatown's Opera Theaters in the 1920s," American Music 20.4, 399-444.

Yung Sai-shing, Yueyun liusheng: changpian gongye yu Guangdong quyī 1903-1953 (The recorded music of Guangdong: gramophone industry and Guangdong's operatic music). Hong Kong: Cosmos Books, 2004.

Part III: Post Pacific War

1. Popular theater under reform in the People's Republic
2. Cantonese opera in Cold War Hong Kong
3. Traditional opera, cultural identity and local history in contemporary Hong Kong

Readings:

Gregory Guldin, "Cantonese Opera in a Colonial Cultural Context," CHINOPERL Papers 16 (1992), 65-93.

Kevin Latham, "Consuming Fantasies: Mediated Stardom in Hong Kong, Cantonese Opera and Cinema," Modern China 26.3 (2000): 309-47.

In addition, we will reference essays in the following conference collections:

Liu Ching-chi, and Elizabeth Sinn, eds. Yueju yantaohui lunwenji (Papers and proceedings of the international seminar on Cantonese opera). Hong Kong: Joint Publishing, 1995.

Li Siu Yan, Cheng Ling Yan, and Tai Su Yan, eds., Xianggang xiqu de xiankuang yu qianzhan (Music opera in Hong Kong: Current and future developments). Hong Kong: Cantonese Opera Research Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2005.

Chow Sze Sum and Cheng Ling Yan, eds., Yueju guoji yantaohui lunwenji (Collected essays from the international symposium on Cantonese opera), 2 vols. Hong Kong: Cantonese Opera Research Programme, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2008.