I. Course Outline

This course examines the traditional Chinese society and its modern transformation. Emphasis will be placed on (1) basic socio-economic structures, (2) matters of social stratification and mobilization and (3) interrelationship of state economy and local society. Topics include: land and people, population, family and lineage, rural social structure, social stratification and mobility, gentry and leaders, social and economic networks, urban development, China and capitalism, state and local economy, merchants and guilds, religion and popular belief, and rebellion and revolution.

Students are required to actively participate in tutorial discussions and complete various training assignments and writing an end-of-term paper.

II. Test book and supplementary readings: [* recommended]

A: General references


Elvin, Mark (1973) The Pattern of the Chinese Past (Stanford Univ. Press)


B: Readings for individual lectures (tentative) [* recommended]

January 17

Lecture 1: Introduction: approach and themes


Activity: knowing each other

January 24

Lecture 2: Land and people


Activity: coursework: Family chart

January 31
Lecture 3: Population growth
曹树基，（2001）中国人口史，第四卷明时期、第五卷清时期，复旦大学出版社

Activity: coursework: oral history + event family

February 7
Lecture 4: Dates without deity: New year, crisis and rite of passage
*Aijmer, Goran (2003) *New Year Celebrations in Central China in Late Imperial Times*, Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
Welch, Patricia Bjaaland (1997) *Chinese New Year*, Hong Kong: Oxford University Press

Activity: Game: Let’s build an ancestral Hall. Discussion: understanding family and lineage

Feb. 14
Lecture 5: Social infrastructure I: family and lineage

Activity: Quiz: knowing China

Feb. 21
Lecture 6: Social infrastructure II: temple and local society

廖迪生 (2000), 香港天后崇拜, 香港：三聯書店
陈春声，郑振满编（2003），民间信仰与社会空间， 福建：福建人民出版社。


Feb. 28
Lecture 7 Farm economy
*Eastman (1988) ch.4 “Agriculture: an overview”
Rawski, Evelyn (1972) *Agricultural Change and the Peasant Economy of South China*, Harvard University Press.
*Buck, Pearl (1931), The Good Earth, (many reprints such as 1953 Methuen, 2005 Pocket Books, 2012 Open Road Media) [The House of Earth: volume 1 The Good Earth (1931) volume 2 Sons (1933) volume 3 A House Divided (1935)]

Activity: Video (2): Roads to Xanadu Pt. 2: the invention of progress. Presentation and Discussion.

March 14
Lecture 8: Social Stratification and social mobility
Elman, Benjamin and A. Woodside (1994) “Afterward: the explanation of education in Ch’ing China” in Elman, Benjamin and A. Woodside (eds.) Education and Society in Late Imperial China, 1600-1900, Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Esherick, Joseph and Mary Rankin (1990) eds, Chinese Local Elites and Patterns of Dominance, University of California Press


Activity: Video (3): Roads to Xanadu Pt. 3: Dreams of wealth and power. Presentation and Discussion.

March 21
Lecture 9: Marketing network and urbanization

Activity: Video (4): Roads to Xanadu Pt. 4: the colour of the cat. Presentation and Discussion.

March 28
Lecture 10: Silver: China in the world economy


全漢升．美洲白銀與十八世紀中國物價革命的關係．及相關論文（載中國經濟史論叢）

Activity: coursework: work-sheet design and explanation

April 4

Activity: participant observation

April 11
Lecture 11: State and local society: popular religion: state recognition and anti-superstition


Activity: Reflection of field observation: completion of worksheet. Comparison and discussion
April 18

Lecture 12: Merchants, State and local economy


Lufrano, Richard, (2013) “Minding the minders: overseeing the brokerage system in Qing China” Late Imperial China 34(1): 66-


Activity: Conclusion and review.

III. Assessment

Evaluation will be based on results of the following:
1. Class Participation (10%)
2. Assignments (family chart, oral history, quiz, worksheet) (40%)
3. Term-end paper (50%)