

CHOI Chi-cheung,
E-mail: goatlionc5@gmail.com
Lecture and Tutorial date and time: Wednesday 14:30-18:20
Venue: TBC
Course code: HH4090

Special Topics in History-Global Asia
Modern Chinese social and economic History
2025 Spring

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. Weekly topics and activities

Week 1

Lecture 1: Introduction: approach and themes

Activity: knowing ourselves

Week 2

Lecture 2: Land and people

Activity: coursework: Family chart

Briefing on final essay: theme: Coping with transnational Crisis

Week 3

Lecture 3: Population growth

Activity: coursework: oral history + event family

Week 4

Lecture 4: Dates without deity: New year, crisis and rite of passage

Quiz: knowing China

Week 5

Lecture 5: Social infrastructure I: family and lineage

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

Week 6

Lecture 6: Social infrastructure II: temple and local society

Activity: Presentation and discussion: surviving transnational economic crisis

Stage 1: identify first and second-hand resources

Week 7

Lecture 7 Farm economy

Activity: Presentation and discussion: surviving transnational health crisis

Stage 2: Reading first hand sources

Week 8

Lecture 8: Social Stratification and social mobility

Activity: Presentation and discussion: surviving transnational political crisis

Stage 3: possible problems

Week 9

Lecture 9: Marketing network and urbanization

Activity: Design of worksheet

Discussion: fieldwork and participant observation

Week 9-10 (March 27 to April 8): Activity: participant observation

Individual/Group Participant Observation:

Theme: Filial Piety, salvation and the Chinese tomb sweeping festival (Qing Ming festival in the Overseas Chinese Settings)

Week 10

Lecture 10: Merchant and Guild

Activity: Reflection on field observations: comparative approach 1

Week 11

Lecture 11: Silver: China in the world economy

Activity: Reflection on field observations: comparative approach 2

Week 12

Lecture 12: Merchants, State and local economy

Activity: Conclusion and review.

III. Assessment

Evaluation will be based on results of the following:

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| 1. Class Participation | (10%) |
| 2. Quiz | (10%) |
| 2. Assignments (family chart, event family and oral history, worksheet) | (40%) |
| 3. End-of-term essay | (40%) |

On Academy Integrity and Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The final write-up to be student's own work. The student must preserve a digital paper trail showing the way the GAI was used. This should be a document specifying the particular GAI assistant used and include the prompts given to the GAI Assistant and the GAI output, or outputs if several are generated.

The student must provide footnote or in-text references in the submission indicating any text paraphrase or significant fact or idea that originated with the GAI assistant and/or other sources.