

CHOI Chi-cheung,  
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Lecture and Tutorial date and time: Thursday 10:30-14:20  
Venue: LHS TR+44  
Course code: HH4090

**Special Topics in History-Global Asia  
Modern Chinese social and economic History  
2024 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**

**January 18**

**Lecture 1: Introduction: approach and themes**

Activity: knowing ourselves

**January 25**

**Lecture 2: Land and people**

Activity: coursework: Family chart

**February 1**

**Lecture 3: Population growth**

Activity: coursework: design of worksheet

**February 8**

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

Activity: coursework: oral history + event family

**Feb. 15**

**Lecture 5: Social infrastructure I: family and lineage**

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

**Feb. 10-24: Activity: participant observation**

**Individual/Group Participant Observation: Chinese New Year**

**Feb. 21 Quiz: knowing China**

**February 29**

**Lecture 6: Social infrastructure II: temple and local society**

Activity: Reflection on field observations: comparative approach

**March 14**

**Lecture 7 Farm economy**

Activity: Presentation and Discussion 1: the price of Harmony (Video)

**March 21**

**Lecture 8: Social Stratification and social mobility**

Activity: Presentation and Discussion 2: the invention of progress (Video)

**March 28**

**Lecture 9: Marketing network and urbanization**

Activity: Presentation and Discussion 3: Dreams of wealth and power (Video)

**April 4**

Subject to changes

**Lecture 10: Merchant and Guild**

Activity: Presentation and Discussion 4: the colour of the cat (Video)

**April 11**

**Lecture 11: Silver: China in the world economy**

Activity: Consultation on final essay

**April 18**

**Lecture 12: Merchants, State and local economy**

Activity: Conclusion and review.

**III. Assessment**

Evaluation will be based on results of the following:

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Class Participation                                 | (10%) |
| 2. Quiz  | (10%) |
| 2. Assignments (family chart, 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.

Subject to changes