



MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR CLASSICAL CHINESE STUDIES

ASIA 501

[HOME](#)[SCHEDULE](#)[ASSESSMENT](#)[COURSE TOOLS](#)[SUPPORT](#)

ABOUT THIS COURSE

The goal of this course is to introduce students to some of the research tools and source materials available for the study of China in the imperial period. Emphasis will be placed on the tools and sources that are particularly useful for the study of the history of later imperial China.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the term, students should:

- be able to identify and evaluate some of the more important research tools for classical Chinese studies;
- have gained some experience in preparing an annotated translation of a classical Chinese text.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

For more details on the individual components, see the [Assessment](#) section.

Attendance/Participation	25%
Research guide	25%
Annotated translation	50%

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep. 5	Imagine UBC (no class)
Sep. 11	First session
Sep. 18	Last date to withdraw without the "W" standing

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: [Dr. Leo K. Shin](#)

Departments: [History](#) and [Asian Studies](#)

Office: [Buchanan Tower](#) 1223

Email: leo.shin@ubc.ca

Office Hours: M 14:00–15:00 (in-person) or [by appointment](#) (via [zoom](#))

CLASS INFORMATION

Term: 2023W Term 1 (3 credits)

Time: M 15:00-17:30

Location: [Buchanan Tower](#) 1226

Course Blog:

blogs.ubc.ca/asia501/

Download [2023W Syllabus](#)

Oct. 2	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no class)
Oct. 2–6	Individual meetings with the instructor
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day (no class)
Oct. 12	Make-up “Monday” (class meets)
Oct. 27	Last date to withdraw
Nov. 13–15	Mid-term break
Dec. 4	Last session / Research guide due
Dec. 20	Annotated translation due

RESOURCES

- Wilkinson, Endymion. [Chinese History: A New Manual](#), 6th ed., 2 vols. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2022. Digital edition available through Pleco.
- [Classical Historiography for Chinese History](#) (Benjamin A. Elman)
- [Song Research Tools](#) (Hilde De Weerd)
- [Guide to Ming Studies](#) (permanently beta) (Leo K. Shin)
- Cohen, Alvin, P. [Introduction to Research in Chinese Source Materials](#). New Haven, Conn.: Far Eastern Publications, Yale University, 2000.
- [Chinaknowledge](#) (Ulrich Theobald)
- [Chicago Manual of Style \(Quick Guide\)](#)
- [How to Cite Asian-Language Sources](#) (UBC)
- [Notes on Romanization](#) (Library of Congress)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

[Edit](#)



MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR CLASSICAL CHINESE STUDIES

ASIA 501

[HOME](#)[SCHEDULE](#)[ASSESSMENT](#)[COURSE TOOLS](#)[SUPPORT](#)

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (SEP. 4): NO CLASS

WEEK 2 (SEP. 11): ORIENTATION

WEEK 3 (SEP. 18): GUIDES, HANDBOOKS, AND OVERVIEWS

What are some of the most useful guides, handbooks, and/or overviews that would help you learn about what has been done in your area of research?

- Wilkinson (2022), chap. 45 (starting with 45.2);
- For specific period(s), check out one or more of the chapters from 55 to 67.

In addition, depending on your area of research, you may want to consult one or more of the other chapters in Wilkinson, such as:

- Classical studies: 28
- Religion: 29
- Literature: 30
- Vernacular Literature & Folklore (including Drama): 31
- Painting: 32

WEEK 4 (SEP. 25): CATALOGS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, AND ANTHOLOGIES

What are some of the more useful catalogs, bibliographies, and/or anthologies of **primary sources** available for your area of research?

- Wilkinson, chaps. 46 (to the end of 46.6), 69, 73;
- Identify items of interest from the relevant chapters/sections from last week.

WEEK 5 (OCT. 2): NO CLASS (NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION)

Students will meet individually with the instructor during this week.

WEEK 6 (OCT. 12 [MAKE-UP MONDAY]): LOCATING PHYSICAL TEXTS

What are some of the more useful tools that would help you locate a physical text?

- Wilkinson, chaps. 72, 74–75.
- Locate and examine an item of interest from the UBC Asian Library. This should be either an authoritative modern-day edition of a pre-20th-century work, a title from one of the Siku series, or a manuscript or printed text from the special [Puban](#) or [Pang Jingtang](#) collection.

WEEK 7 (OCT. 16): EVALUATING DIGITIZED TEXTS

What are some of the more reliable/authoritative platforms for scanned and digitized texts?

- Wilkinson, 45.5.2;
- [Chinese Studies Resources](#) (UBC Asian Library);
- Check out also the resources (some are open-access) available through [Harvard](#) and [Princeton](#).

WEEK 8 (OCT. 23): COMPARATIVE EXERCISE

For this week, please identify a text and compare as many significant versions/editions (both physical and digital) as you are able to examine. In case there are discrepancies, how do you decide which one to use?

- Wilkinson, chap. 70.

WEEK 9 (OCT. 30): LANGUAGE

What are some of the more authoritative general-purpose as well as specialized dictionaries you will consult for your research?

- Wilkinson, chaps. 1–5 (read what interests you) and chap. 6;
- Elman, “[Sinological Toolkit: Dictionaries](#)”;
- [Notes on Romanization](#) (Library of Congress).

WEEK 10 (NOV. 6): PEOPLE

What are some of the more authoritative tools you will consult to gather/verify the biographical information of your subjects?

- Wilkinson, chaps. 7–10 (read what interests you);
- Elman, “[Sinological Toolkit: Biographical Searches](#)”;

- [Chinese Biographical Database Project](#) (Harvard).

WEEK 11 (NOV. 13): MIDTERM BREAK

WEEK 12 (NOV. 20): TIME, PLACES, AND INSTITUTIONS (TO BE CONFIRMED)

What are some of the more authoritative tools you will consult to gather/verify information regarding time, places, and institutions?

- Wilkinson, chaps. Introduction, 16, 19;
- Elman, “[Chronologies and Dating](#),” “[Geographical Aides](#),” and “[Official and Institutional Titles](#)”;
- [China Historical GIS](#) (Harvard).

WEEK 13 (NOV. 27): PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (DEC. 4): PRESENTATIONS



**MATERIALS AND METHODS
FOR CLASSICAL
CHINESE STUDIES**
ASIA 501

HOME	SCHEDULE	ASSESSMENT	COURSE TOOLS	SUPPORT
----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------

ASSESSMENT

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION (25%)

Students are expected to attend and participate in our weekly sessions. But please see [Support](#) if you need to miss a class.

ANNOTATED RESEARCH GUIDE (25%)

Due on December 4 (to be submitted through [Turnitin](#)). Students should identify a research area (e.g., early Chinese thought, Tang–Song poetry, Ming–Qing fiction, history of borderlands, etc.) and prepare an annotated research guide (30–35 entries; format flexible). The purpose of your guide is to facilitate research by students and scholars alike who would like to familiarize themselves with some of the most useful tools and sources (including databases) available for a particular field of study.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Scope (20%)	Scope and structure are especially thoughtfully designed.	Scope and structure are generally well-designed.	Scope and structure are reasonable.	Scope and structure not well designed.
Tools/Sources (40%)	Tools and sources are especially thoughtfully chosen.	Tools and sources are thoughtfully chosen.	Tools and sources are chosen with some care.	Tools and sources are not well chosen.
Annotations (40%)	Relevance of tools and sources is explained with exceptional clarity.	Relevance is well explained.	Relevance is explained with some care.	Relevance is not well explained.

ANNOTATED TRANSLATION (50%)

About 5,000–6,000 words (incl. introduction and annotations). Due by the end on December 20 (through [Turnitin](#)). Original text to be decided in consultation with the instructor.

[HOME](#)[SCHEDULE](#)[ASSESSMENT](#)[COURSE TOOLS](#)[SUPPORT](#)

COURSE TOOLS

PRIVACY

Be mindful that many of the online tools we will be using will capture data about your learning activities (user names, locations, duration of login, etc.). Students do in some cases have the option of using an alias (such as [Turnitin](#)). Please check with the instructor.

COURSE BLOG

Our [Course Blog](https://blogs.ubc.ca/asia501/) (blogs.ubc.ca/asia501/) is where the most pertinent information for this course can be found.

COURSE WIKI

Our [Course Wiki](https://wiki.ubc.ca/Course:2023W-ASIA501) (https://wiki.ubc.ca/Course:2023W-ASIA501) is where you will share the resources you would like to report on.

ZOOM

Our plan is hold in-person classes. But just in case we need to go online, here's the Zoom link:

Topic: [2021W-ASIA 501] Class Session (Backup)

<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61033695799?pwd=OEdtUERHbTBnY1lXdWc3eHdDd3YvUT09>

Meeting ID: 610 3369 5799

Passcode: 186521

TURNITIN

Please follow the steps below to submit your assignments through Turnitin:

1. Visit the [Turnitin page](https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/turnitin/) (lthub.ubc.ca/guides/turnitin/) of the Learning Technology Hub for background information and for instructions regarding privacy matters.

2. If you would like to create a new account, select “Get Started” and follow the instructions to [create a user profile](#).

- Note that since the server of Turnitin is not located in Canada, students may opt to use an alias when they sign up for an account.

3. [Log in](#)

4. Select “enroll in a class” and provide the following information:

- class/section ID: 40495285
- enrollment password: asia501

5. Select “23W-ASIA 501” from the list.

6. Select “submit” (next to the appropriate assignment):

- Choose “file upload” (preferred) or “cut & paste” (for privacy reasons, please delete your name and any identification information from the original document before uploading);
- Provide the required information;
- Upload your file *or* copy and paste your document (including endnotes and bibliography, if applicable);
- Select “submit”
- **Confirm submission****

Further Information

- Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Turnitin service as soon as possible.
- Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their own work and may be asked to resubmit their assignments to the instructor.
- Students who are new to Turnitin and who would like to get a sense of how the service works may submit a draft assignment under “Trial submission.”
- Students who are unable to access Turnitin may submit their assignments to the instructor as e-mail attachments (which will then be forwarded to Turnitin). Please contact the instructor in advance.



MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR CLASSICAL CHINESE STUDIES

ASIA 501

[HOME](#)

[SCHEDULE](#)

[ASSESSMENT](#)

[COURSE TOOLS](#)

[SUPPORT](#)

SUPPORT

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the [UBC Senate website](#).

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

If you are ill, it is important that you stay home. The marking scheme for this course has built-in flexibility so that you can prioritize your health and still succeed. If you miss a class, you should reach out to your classmates. You may also set up an office hour with me.

If you are unable to attend class or complete a required activity due to illness or another reasonable cause, you should let the instructor know as soon as possible. If appropriate and necessary, an alternative arrangement will be made.

As the instructor, if I am ill, I will not show up in the classroom, and I will communicate plans for class as soon as possible through Canvas and/or email. Our classroom will be available for you if we need to go online.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Academic accommodation is designed to enable students with disabilities or ongoing medical conditions to overcome challenges that may affect their academic performance. Students who require academic accommodation must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#) (previously known as Access & Diversity). The Centre will make a determination about accommodation in accordance with [Policy LR7: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Academic accommodation is not determined by the instructors, and instructors should not ask students about the nature of their disabilities (or ongoing medical conditions) or request copies of their disability

documentation. However, an instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility if the accommodation prescribed is interfering with the essential learning outcomes of a course.

RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT

Our interactions in this class must adhere to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Respectful Environment Statement](#).

When we gather to learn, we come together with a diversity of human attributes and perspectives, and we share the responsibility to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment that respects differences of all sorts. Please treat each other with kindness and alert the instructor of any concerns.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or examination and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the [Student Conduct and Discipline](#) section of the UBC Calendar.

USE OF GENERATIVE AI TOOLS

As technology continues to evolve, we will have a conversation at the start of the term about how best to balance the utility of the latest AI tools and the learning objectives of the course.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Out of consideration for others, during class, please use your electronic devices only for class-related activities. We will take breaks. So, water is allowed in the classroom, but not food.

LEARNING RESOURCES

- Health, Well Being, and Safety
<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/health-wellbeing-safety>
- Centre for Accessibility
<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>
- Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication
<https://writing.library.ubc.ca/>
- Chapman Learning Commons
<https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/>