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Office hours in Mears 312: T&TH 1:10-3pm and by appointment

HIS 295-03 Defense Against the Dark Arts

The many worlds of pre-modern China were home to a complex cosmology that understood the natural order as including many elements we would now characterize as "magical." Some of these things were simply neutral facts of life, others might even be benevolent. Some, however, were cause for concern and anxiety. In this class we will use an examination of the supernatural to learn more about the cosmology, culture, system of knowledge, and structures of power in pre-modern China. We will examine questions of political authority, gender, family politics, and social stratification, culminating in encounters with the West and its foreign categories: magic, science, and religion.

Learning Goals:

In this course, students will practice the basic historical skill of accessing distant worlds that survive in fragmentary, and often contentious, memories and voices. More specifically, students will learn:

- To think historically by contextualizing primary sources and drawing connections between ideas and contexts
- To develop both specific and contextual perspectives over the history of pre-modern China
- To compare and contrast ideas and practices across cultures and periods with empathy
- To formulate questions that are useful for discussing a work and that lead to new ideas or insights
- To clearly convey complex ideas and effectively use evidence in writing assignments

Books:

- A. Historical background**
Fairbank and Goldman, *China, A New History* (Second Enlarged Edition.)
**Due to the exorbitant price of this book, the assigned pages will be made available online*
- B. Primary Sources and Introductions**
Donald S. Lopez, *Religions of China in Practice*, Princeton University Press 1996
- C. Case Study**

Philp Kuhn, *Soulstealers: The Chinese Sorcery Scare of 1768*, Harvard University Press 2006 (reprint)

D. Other readings will be available as PDFs (marked by @)

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (30%): You are expected to attend class on time and participate actively throughout the semester. All readings are to be completed prior to the class period for which they have been assigned. You should come to class prepared to discuss them in detail. Attendance (10%) will be taken at every meeting. Significant or frequent late arrivals may count as absences. Participation (20%) includes behaving respectfully in class, arriving on time, contributing to discussions, completing assignments, and other learning activities associated with the class. *For more information, see **Guideline to Class Participation (under Assignment on PWeb)**.*

Guided Response Papers (50%) This is the primary writing assignments of this class. At the end of each section of the class (see Schedule,) you will write a short response paper that critically engages with the argument of the lectures and the collective arguments of class discussions. You will be writing a total of 6 comments (3 pages, double-spaced). The first paper is ungraded, and a detailed prompt will be given on how to complete this paper before each assignment date. *For more information, see **Assignment Sheet**.*

Final Project: A Story of Chinese Magic (20%). This is a short, 5-6 page, double-spaced narrative that focuses on interrogating the category of magic in Chinese history. *For more information, see **Assignment Sheet**.*

Grading Scale:

93-100%	A	83-86%	B	70-76%	C
90-92%	A-	80-82%	B-	60-69%	D
87-89%	B+	77-79%	C+	below 60%	F

Policies

Pedagogical considerations (these will be discussed during the first class:)

- Lectures, analytical listening, and critical civic participation
- The art of attention
- The coming together of minds and the building of an argument
- Note-taking and the psychological overcoming of ideas
- The historian's craft
- Cumulative learning

Laptop policy: laptops are strongly discouraged in this class. You may not like the idea now, but you will appreciate the policy by the end of the semester.

Note-taking during lectures should never aim to produce verbatim transcripts; it is meant to be an exercise in dissecting ideas and creating short synthesis. Great discussions are facilitated by everyone's full attention, including eye contact. Having a screen open in the class with access to internet is distracting for you as well as the other students who may be able to see it, and may increase the possibility of disruptive behaviors in class. If you have a compelling reason for using a laptop in class, I invite you to speak with me directly.

The same rule applies to other electronic devices.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you need and want accommodations in this class, please contact Autumn Wilke, in Academic Advising (wilkeaut@grinnell.edu, (641) 269-3124). She will work with you to specify the accommodations and give you a letter outlining these. This process ensures your equal participation in the class while protecting your privacy. If your access needs have already been specified, please provide me with the letter.

Religious holidays:

Grinnell College offers alternative options to complete academic work for students who observe holy days. Please contact me within the first 2 weeks of the semester if you would like to discuss a specific instance that applies to you.

Attendance and extension policies:

If you have legitimate reasons to miss class or turn in an assignment late, please let me know in advance and supply relevant documentation. Everyone is allowed 2 absences without penalty during the semester. If you have 3 or more absences (regardless of reasons,) you will incur deduction of attendance grade. You are encouraged to come to talk to me about ways to make up for absences if you have legitimate reasons to miss more than 2 classes. Everyone is allowed 1 extensions of 24 hours on 1 writing assignments without penalty. If you have 2 or more late submissions (regardless of reasons) you will incur grade deduction on the assignment depending on the amount of time lapsed. You are encouraged to come to talk to me about ways to make up for the grade.

Academic honesty:

In all assignments written for this course, you must abide by the College's rules on plagiarism. (http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty_in_Academic_Work) Do not submit someone else's work as your own, quote from a source without citing it, or provide inappropriate help to a classmate on exams and assignments. If you paraphrase or quote any text from another you must indicate where the text comes from. Failure to comply

with the requirement of academic honesty may result in receiving no credit for the assignment in question or even failing the course in cases of serious academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about any of the rules, please consult with me, or the professionals in the Writing Lab, *before* submitting your class materials and assignments.

Schedule

Online readings marked by @

Date	Topic	Assignments
1/23 W	Introduction	Syllabus @
	<i>Section I.</i>	
1/25 F	What is “Magic” in Chinese history? Lecture	R. Stark, “Reconceptualizing Religion, Magic, and Science”@
1/28 M	Heaven, Oracles, and Divination Discussion	Fairbank, 29-45 Eno, “Deities and Ancestors in Early Oracle Inscriptions” in Lopez
1/30 W	Oaths, Vengeance, and Sacrifices Discussion	M. Lewis, <i>Sanctioned Violence in Early China</i> , 15-52 @
2/1 F	Early Philosophy and Cosmology Lecture	Fairbank, 46-54 F. Li, “Philosophers as Statesmen” in <i>Early China</i> , 207-28 @
2/4 M	“The Religion of Magic”: The Case of Confucianism Discussion	The Analects @
2/6 W	The Magical Way Discussion	Dao De Jing @ Han Feizi @ Zhuang Zi @
	<i>Section II</i>	*First response paper due on Thursday evening 2/7

2/8 F	Early Imperial China Lecture	Fairbank, 54-71
2/11 M	Ritual to Heaven and Earth Discussion	Bokenkamp. "Record of the Feng and Shan Sacrifices", in Lopez Zito, "Ji Tian" @
2/13 W	Astrology Discussion	Nakayama, "Characteristics of Chinese Astrology" @ X. Sun, "The role of astronomy in ancient Chinese society and culture" @
2/15 F	"Magico-Technicians" Discussion	Eno, "The Arts of the Fangshi" @ DeWoskin, <i>Doctors, Diviners, and Magicians</i> , (select stories) @ Kohn, "Laozi, Ancient Philosopher, Master of Immortality, and God" in Lopez
2/18 M	Exorcism Discussion	Nickerson, "The Great Petition for Sepulchral Plaints" @ Harper, "Spellbinding," in Lopez
	<i>Section III</i>	*Second response paper due on Tuesday evening 2/19
2/20 W	Disunion and Buddhist Influence Lecture	Fairbank, 72-87
2/22 F	Seekers Discussion	Company, "Narrative in the Self-Presentation of Transcendence-Seekers" @ Berkowitz, "Social and Cultural Dimensions of Reclusion in Early Medieval China" @

2/25 M	Hell Discussion	Poo, "Justice, Morality, and Skepticism in Six Dynasties Ghost Stories" @ Chinese Hell Scrolls (Reed)@ Orzech, "Chinese Hell Narratives" @
2/27 W	Kinship and the Underworld Discussion	Teiser, <i>The Ghost Festival in Medieval China</i> , 3-15, 168-213 @
3/1 F	Boddhisatva and Cinderella Discussion	A. Waley, "The Chinese Cinderella" @ C. Yu, <i>Kuan-yin</i> , 419-38 @
	<i>Section IV.</i>	*Third response paper due on Sunday evening 3/3
3/4 M	Medieval China Lecture	Fairbank, 88-127
3/6 F	Alchemy Discussion	Eliade, <i>The Forge and the Crucible</i> , 53-64, 169-78 @ Schipper, <i>The Taoist Body</i> , 174-82 @ Marsili, "Time, Myth, and Memory" in <i>Heaven is Empty</i> @
3/8 W	Guest Lecture (Prof. Miranda Brown)	TBA
3/11 M	Miracles Discussion	ter Haar, "The Devine Presence", in <i>Guan Yu</i> @
3/11 M	Spirits Discussion	Davis "Spirit-Possession and Grateful Dead" in <i>Society and the Supernatural</i> @ Hansen, "The Law of the Spirits", in Lopez

3/13 W	Multi-Realm Justices Discussion	Zito, "City Gods and Their Magistrates", in Lopez "Indictment Rituals" in Katz, <i>Devine Justice</i> , 61-81 @
3/15 F	Dragons Discussion	Brook, "Dragon Spotting," in <i>The Troubled Empire</i> @
3/18-29	<i>Spring Break</i>	*Fourth response paper due on Sunday evening 3/17
	<i>Section V.</i>	
4/1 M	Late Imperial China lecture	Fairbank, 128-61
4/3 W	Ghosts and Gender Discussion	Zeitlin, <i>The Phantom Heroine</i> , 13-52 @
4/5 F	Witches and the Drought Demon Discussion	"Wicked Women and Evil Emperors" in ter Haar, <i>Telling Stories</i> , 282-321 "Witchcraft" in Hinsch, <i>Women in Early Imperial China</i> , 89-91
4/8 M	The Fox Discussion	Kang, <i>The Cult of the Fox</i> , 44-71 @
4/10 W	The Snake Discussion	Idema, <i>The White Snake and Her Son</i>
4/12 F	Poison Discussion	Feng and Shryock "Black Magic in China known as Gu (Ku)" @

	<i>Section VI.</i>	*Fifth response paper due on Sunday evening 4/14
4/15 M	Gods of Money Discussion	von Glahn, "The Enchantment of Wealth" @
4/17 W	Fortune Discussion	Brokaw, "Supernatural Retribution and Human Destiny" in Lopez Mair, "The Book of Good Deeds," in Lopez
4/19 F	Manufacturing Fate (I. Predictions) Discussion	R. Smith, <i>Fortune-tellers and Philosophers</i> , 173-220
4/22 M	Manufacturing Fate (II. Geomancy) Discussion	R. Smith, <i>Fortune-tellers and Philosophers</i> , 173-220
4/24 W	Sorcery and Politics I Discussion	Kuhn, <i>Soulstealers</i> , 1-93
4/26 F	Sorcery and Politics II Discussion	Kuhn, <i>Soulstealers</i> , 94-234
	<i>Concluding Section</i>	*Sixth response paper due on Sunday evening 4/28
4/29 M	Modernization Lecture	Fairbank, 198-234
5/1 W	"Foreign Devils" Discussion	"Westerners as Scapegoats" in ter Haar, <i>Telling Stories</i> , 154-95 Chen, <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , 174-8 @
5/3 F	The Magic That is the West Discussion	Chen, <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , 167-74 @ Kang, <i>Great Unity</i> (selections) @

5/6 M	Cannibalism of the Past Discussion	X. Lu, "A Madman's Diary", "Fate" @
5/8 W	Contemporary Magic in Comparative Context (With Prof. Carolyn Lewis)	TBA
5/10 F	Conclusion and Evaluations	
5/14-17	Exams	