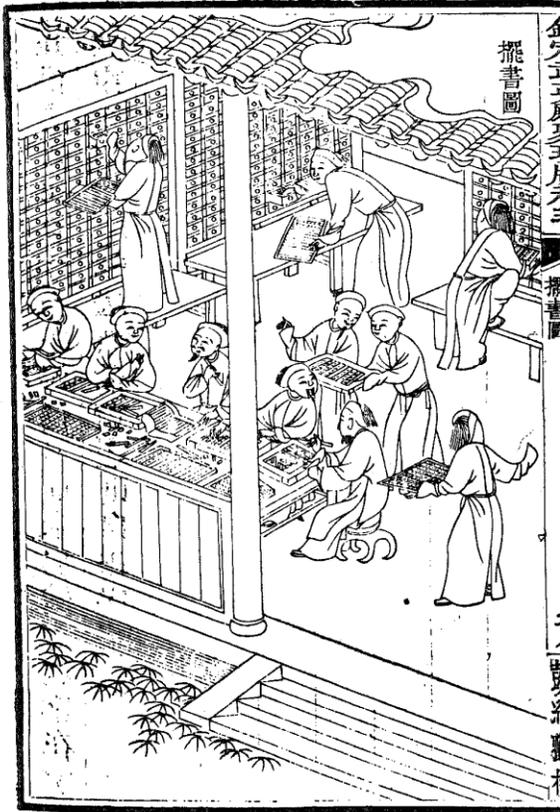


**HISTORY 500: HISTORY OF CHINESE PRINT CULTURE.  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, FALL SEMESTER 2010.**



**Course description**

This course will look at historical issues related to books, reading, and the circulation of information. About two-thirds of the readings will be on China from ancient to modern times, while the rest will be from the non-Chinese world for comparative perspective. We will examine social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of printing, publishing, book markets, book collecting, education, reading, and writing; the coexistence of print and manuscript cultures, the implications of technological change, and other issues. No knowledge of Chinese language or previous coursework in Chinese studies is required. Students who can read a relevant foreign language may substitute some foreign language readings for the regularly assigned English language readings after consulting with the professor.

**Need for Accommodation**

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, e.g., a religious holiday,

disability, mahjong team, etc., please tell me during the first week so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Communication:**

Instructor: Joe Dennis.

Class Meetings: Humanities 5245, Thursdays 1:20-3:20

Office: Humanities 4116

Office Hours: Monday, 12:10-1:00; Wednesday, 1:00-2:00; and by appointment.

Phone: 263-1853.

E-mail: dennis3@wisc.edu.

**Course requirements**

- Fully participate in all classes.
- Summaries/analyses of each week's readings.
- Lead discussion in rotation.
- Term paper, 15-20 pages on a topic to be worked out with professor in advance.

**Grading**

Grades will be determined as follows:

Weekly writing	33%
Informed class participation	33%
Final paper	33% (rough draft 5%, final version 23%, oral presentation 5%)

### **Readings available in bookstore:**

Finkelstein, David. *An Introduction to Book History* (Paperback) Routledge; 1st edition ISBN: 0415314437

Eisenstein, Elizabeth. *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge U. Press. ISBN: 9780521607742.

Barrett, Tim. *The Woman Who Discovered Printing*. Yale. ISBN: 9780300127287

Reed, Christopher. *Gutenberg in Shanghai: Chinese Print Capitalism, 1876-1937* (Paperback) University of Hawaii Press. ISBN: 082482833X

McDermott, Joseph. *Social History of the Chinese Book* (paperback). Hong Kong University Press. ISBN: 9789622097827

Other readings will be available electronically. If no location is specified, it is on Learn@UW.

### **Assignments**

Each week students must write up one to two paragraphs that state the main arguments of the week's readings and raise questions for discussion. Students will also write four short (2-3 pages) papers on the readings over the course of the semester. Discussion leaders for the week will be chosen from among the students who are doing a paper on that week's readings. The paragraphs and papers must be posted to the course website by Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. (the evening before class). Everyone should read over them on Wednesday night or Tuesday morning before coming to class. As with the weekly paragraphs, the papers should state the general arguments of the readings and highlight areas which you would like to explore in class discussion, but the papers should go into more depth and raise more questions than the paragraphs. By the end of the day on Wednesday, September 8, email me a list of six days for which you would be willing to write a short paper and lead discussion (ranked in order of preference). Based on people's preferences, I will make a list.

### **3. Schedule**

R Sep 2: Introduction.

R Sep 9: What is book history?

Finkelstein, David. *An Introduction to Book History*, whole book.

R Sep 16: Chinese books and documents before paper.

Tsien, Tsuen-hsui. *Written on Bamboo and Silk: The Beginnings of Chinese Books and Inscriptions*, pp. 1-130.

R Sep 23: Woodblock Printing in China.

Tim Barrett. *The Woman Who Discovered Printing*, whole book.

R Sep 30: NO CLASS – get ahead in your reading.

R Oct 7: Print Culture in China.

Brokaw, Cynthia. *Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China*, pp. 3-93.

- R Oct 14: Books in Early Modern Europe, part 1.  
Eisenstein, Elizabeth. *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, pp. xi-163.
- R Oct 21: Books in Early Modern Europe, part 2.  
Eisenstein, Elizabeth. *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, pp. 164-311.
- R Oct 28: Social History and Book History.  
McDermott, Joseph. *Social History of the Chinese Book*
- R Nov 4: What is Reading?  
Li Yu, *Learning to Read in Late Imperial China*, pp. 7-25. Blackboard. Johns, Adrian. *The Nature of the Book*, pp. 380-443, “The Physiology of Reading: Print and the Passions.”
- R Nov 11: The Modern Transformation of Chinese Printing and Publishing, part 1.  
Reed, Christopher, *Gutenberg in Shanghai*, pp. 1-127.
- R Nov 18: The Modern Transformation of Chinese Printing and Publishing, part 2.  
Reed, Christopher, *Gutenberg in Shanghai*, pp. 128-256. **Paper Outlines Due.**
- R Nov 25: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving
- R Dec 2: **Paper Drafts due. In class peer review and discussion.**
- R Dec 9: **Papers Due. Oral Presentations on Papers.**
- There is no final examination in this class.

### Plagiarism:

Question: What’s the policy?

Answer: “The proverb says: Don’t insult a friend’s wife or bully his concubine. You’ve done both you impudent ape! Come here and let me have a whack at you!” - Ox Demon King to Monkey (Sun Wukong) in *Journey to the West*. Think of your assignments as your teacher’s beloved.

Question: What is plagiarism?

Answer: Review the policy or ask me before submitting your paper. If you ask me in advance whether you can present material in a certain way, it is harmonious education. If you just present another’s work without attribution, hoping you will not get caught, it will also be educational, however, the lesson learned will be that, indeed, the lot of sentient beings is to suffer.

Question: What will happen to me if I plagiarize?

Answer: *Ling chi* 凌遲, or “death by slicing,” a Chinese and Mongol punishment for heinous crimes in imperial times. In contrast to simple decapitation, *ling chi* extended the suffering and forced the condemned person to dishonor their parents by defiling their body. In addition, the University will take action, such as expelling your remnant parts.

Prior to handing in your first assignment you must read and master the Writing Center’s help page on how to avoid plagiarism: [http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA\\_plagiarism.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html)

### Late Assignments:

I operate on a tight schedule. If you hand in an assignment late, you mess with my schedule. Remember the immutable law of Karma! Also, you will be docked 5 points per day late.

#### Handouts and Assignments:

If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting any handouts or assignments made. Ask me or check with someone from class. We will make a class list in the first section meeting. The Master said: “Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful.”

#### Other Matters:

The University has many common sense policies that you are expected not to violate. If you fear your potential actions may be improper, ask me. For example, maintaining a dignified and respectful atmosphere is a responsibility that we take seriously. Sexual harassment is one form of disrespect that undermines our community, violates university policy, and could subject one to both civil and criminal liability.

The line between acceptable social interaction and deviance has been drawn and redrawn throughout history by almost every society. For our purposes, following *The Book of Heavenly Commandments*, commandments five through ten will ensure the appropriate class atmosphere (promulgated in 1852 during The Heavenly Kingdom of the Taipings).<sup>1</sup> Commandment Seven states:

Do not indulge in wickedness or lewdness. In the world there are many men, all brothers; in the world there are many women, all sisters. For the sons and daughters of Heaven, the men have men’s quarters and the women have women’s quarters; they are not allowed to intermix... The casting of amorous glances, the harboring of lustful imaginings about others, the smoking of opium, and the singing of libidinous songs are all offenses against the Heavenly Commandment.

If you have questions or are having any problems, please contact me. Confucius said: “He was quick and eager to learn, he was not ashamed to seek advice.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, p. 28.