

**History 184R: Views of the Qin**

Tuesdays, 9:00am-11:50 am

Location: HSSB 2252

Instructor: Anthony Barbieri-Low

Office: HSSB 4225

Office hours: Mon. 12:00-2:00 pm

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**Course Description:**

The Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) was the first imperial house to rule the bulk of the territory we now think of as China. The Qin established the pattern for the imperial bureaucratic state that would rule China for the next two thousand years, and its unification of the various written scripts and metal currencies of feudal China ensured the cultural and economic unification of the land as well. But the Qin Dynasty has also been disparaged by later writers for its harsh laws, its excessive labor mobilizations, the autocratic rule of its emperors, and of course, the famous “burning of the books,” one of the most notorious literary inquisitions in history.

In this course, students will look at the Qin Dynasty from a wide variety of perspectives. They will come to learn how this brief period in Chinese history has been viewed by later authors and through the lens of contemporary culture. The types of material that students will read or view in this course include primary historical documents, legal codes and casebooks, legends and literature, historical essays, archaeological materials, historical fiction, movies, comic books, and video games.

**Course Goals:**

The primary purpose of this course is to train you in the research and writing of a polished historical paper.

This course will take you through the stages of a complete research paper including:

- Identifying a workable topic within a set theme
- Identifying compelling problems or questions within a topic
- Writing a concise research proposal
- Identifying primary and secondary sources in print and electronic form
- Constructing an annotated bibliography
- Developing a thesis based on your reading of the material
- Constructing a detailed outline
- Producing a first-draft of a research paper
- Peer-reviewing the work of fellow students and responding to critiques
- Revising the first draft into a polished final paper
- Giving an in-class presentation

This course has three additional goals.

- 1) To help you learn about the Qin Dynasty of China and how its history has been interpreted by later ages.
- 2) To demonstrate how ancient historians interpret different categories of sources.
- 3) To encourage you to speak articulately and confidently in seminar-style discussions.

## **Course Requirements:**

Class Participation and short writings: 25%

This includes attendance and participation in discussions, and short analyses of assigned readings, and preliminary presentations of your work.

Research Paper: 75%

This is the total grade for the paper, including the initial proposal and bibliography (5%), thesis paragraph & outline (10%), first draft (20%), and revised draft (30%), and presentation (10%).

The final paper should be 15-20 pages double-spaced, around 4500-6000 words, excluding the citations.

## **Class policies:**

Time is very precious in this course. If you miss more than two class sessions, or individual meeting weeks with the instructor, for any reason, you cannot pass the course. Absences from class will be excused only for reasons of health or family emergency. A note from a parent or health professional is required to remove the unexcused absence. Excused absences are counted as 50% attendance for that day. Learning what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid such mistakes will be discussed during the first seminar meeting.

## The research essay:

The two drafts of the research essay, and its presentation, will determine 60% of your grade. The topic of the research paper will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Basically, for the research paper, the student will investigate some interpretations of the Qin Dynasty in more depth, or using different sources than those introduced in class. For example, even though we screen two recent movies about the Qin in the class, one might decide to watch all the English-subtitled movies listed in the Supplemental Bibliography and write an essay analyzing their interpretations of the Qin period. Or, a video-game aficionado might want to sample the half-dozen or more other games that make reference to the Qin Dynasty and analyze their interpretive standpoint, their accuracy, or some other aspect.

The student will meet with the instructor on at least two occasions to discuss the paper. A first draft will be returned to the student with comments. This paper must be revised and submitted again for the final grade. The student will be asked to briefly present the results of the research paper to the seminar and may be asked submit a summary of the results as an Internet encyclopedia article.

Other possible topics include (anything is possible):

- The Qin in modern novels
- The Qin in recent newspaper and magazine coverage
- Asian TV serials about the Qin (Chinese language required)
- The Qin in Classical Chinese poetry (Advanced Chinese language required)
- The coverage of Qin archaeology in the Western press

- The Great Wall of China
- Biographies of the First Emperor of China
- The Qin in legends and fairytales
- Documentaries on the First Emperor of Qin
- The Qin in drama and opera
- Qin toys and collectibles
- The Qin and the tourism industry in China.
- A comparison of Qin law and Roman law
- The works of Guo Moruo regarding the Qin
- Chairman Mao and Qin Shihuang

### **Textbooks and Materials:**

Sima Qian. *The Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Volume*. Translated by Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. (UCSB Bookstore) Start reading right away. You need to read the whole book early in the class.

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. St. Martin's Press, 2015. (UCSB Bookstore)

PDF readings posted on Gauchospace.

*Prince of Qin*. Video game by Object Software, and distributed by Strategy First. Available to loan from instructor for the duration of the term.

### **Seminar Readings and Schedule:**

The once-weekly sessions will run roughly 3 hours. During that time, we will be engaged in a variety of activities, including: discussion of the week's topic and readings; examining different categories of evidence; viewing films, documentaries, or illustrations focusing on the Qin dynasty; and working individually or in small groups to critique and revise formal prose. You are expected to bring your readings to class and have taken detailed written notes on them.

There will be some additional film screening outside of class, and some video clips and films available online.

Week 1: Tuesday, January 5, 2016: Course Introduction

Overview of themes, readings, course requirements.

Overview of the research and writing process.

Discussion on avoiding plagiarism in academic writing. (print handout on Gauchospace)

#### **Scheduling of individual conferences for week no. 2.**

Distribution of optional *Prince of Qin* video games. (watch trailer)

Movie viewing: Documentary, TBD.

Week 2: Tuesday, January 12, 2016: The View from Contemporary Writings and Inscriptions

**Duyvendak**, J.J.L, trans., “An Order to Cultivate Waste Lands” and “Agriculture and War” in *The Book of Lord Shang: A Classic of the Chinese School of Law* (London: Probsthain, 1928), 175-96. (Gauchospace) *Make sure you first read, Sima Qian, Records of the Grand Historian, 89-99.*

**Barbieri-Low**, Anthony, trans., “Standard Measure of Shang Yang (344 BC)” (Gauchospace)

**Han** Feizi (d. 233 BC), “Five Vermin” (Gauchospace) & “Two Handles” (Gauchospace).  
Read the entry on Han Feizi on Encyclopedia Britannia online or Wikipedia.

**Barbieri-Low**, Anthony, and Robin D.S. **Yates**, trans., “Case no. 18 from the *Book of Submitted Doubtful Cases*. (Gauchospace)

**Barbieri-Low**, Anthony, trans. “Letters to Home from Qin Soldiers Heifu and Jing” (Gauchospace)

After your meeting with the instructor **Construct 1 page research proposal and preliminary bibliography. Due on Gauchospace, January 19.**

Continue to read the *Records of the Grand Historian, Qin Volume*. You must read the entire book before January 26th, but the earlier you complete it the more informed you will be during the next two class sessions.

In class handout and presentation of Qin sealing clays, lacquer, bronze, pottery, and stone inscriptions as historical sources. Handling of Qin coins and rubbing of a floor tile from the Qin palace.

**Hand in a copy of your reading notes for this week.**

Week 3: Tuesday, January 19, 2016: The View from Archaeological Excavations

- Each person will introduce his/her research topic to the class.
- In class introduction to the latest discoveries from the mausoleum of the First Emperor of Qin and other Qin sites.
- Guide on how to keep up with latest discoveries of Chinese archaeology through newspaper databases and Internet news sites.

Readings (to be completed before class): You should also begin intensive reading/viewing of your sources for your paper.

**Topping**, Audrey. “China’s Incredible Find: The First Emperor’s Army,” *National Geographic* (April 1978), 440-459. (Gauchospace)

**Hessler**, Peter and Louis O. **Mazzatenta**, “Rising to Life: Treasures of Ancient China.” *National Geographic* (October 2001), 48-67. (Gauchospace)

**Tang** Xiaofeng, “A Report of the Investigations on the Great Wall of the Qin Han Period in the Northwest Sector of Inner Mongolia.” *Wenwu* (1977.5), 16-22. Translated in *Chinese Archaeological Abstracts*, 3:959-65. (Gauchospace)

*Qindu Xianyang kaogu baogao* 秦都咸陽考古報告 [Archaeological report of the Qin capital of Xianyang] (Beijing: Kexue Chubanshe, 2004). [English abstract of report] (Gauchospace)

**Barbieri-Low**, Anthony, trans., “Preliminary excavation report of the Warring-States period tomb of a bronzecaster from the northern suburbs of Xi’an.” *Wenwu* (2003.9): 4-14. (Gauchospace)

**Ledderose**, **Lothar**, “A Magic Army for the Emperor,” in *Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production in Chinese Art* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 51-73. (Gauchospace)

Write a two-page comparative analysis of the first *National Geographic* piece on the Qin terracotta warriors (1978) and Ledderose’s chapter from his book *Ten Thousand Things*. Due January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Week 4: Tuesday, January 26, 2016: Early Historical Literature and Critical Assessments

- Short presentation of one of your sources.
- Discussion of formulating a thesis and constructing an outline.
- Schedule second meeting with instructor.

Readings (to be completed before class):

**Sima** Qian (ca. 145-86 BC), *Records of the Grand Historian, Qin Dynasty* (entire book).  
**Jia** Yi (201-169 BC), “Guo Qin lun” [Finding Fault with the Qin] in Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian, Qin volume*, 74-83.

**Lu** Jia (ca. 217-172 BC), *Xinyu* 新語 [New Discourses], excerpts “On Aiding Administration” & “On Non-action” translated by Mei-kao Ku in *A Chinese Mirror for Magistrates, The Hsin-yü of Lu Chia*. (Canberra: Faculty of Asian Studies Monograph Series, Australian National University, 1988), 79-87. (Gauchospace)

**Liu** Zongyuan (AD 773-819), “Fengjian lun” 封建論 [On feudalism] in *The Essence of Chinese Civilization*, edited and translated by Dun J. Li (Princeton: D. Van Nostrand, 1967), 124-129. (Gauchospace)

Write a short 2 page paper, discussing the critical assessments of the Qin Dynasty made by scholars of the Han and Tang Dynasties. Due February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

Week 5: Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016: Qin Law and Society

- Second individual conference this week to discuss your thesis & detailed outline.
- Write a thesis paragraph and detailed outline to turn in next week. (Due Feb. 9)
- You should be actively and intensively reading all your sources by this point.

**Hulsewé**, A.F.P., trans. “The Circular Letter from Governor Teng.” (Gauchospace)

**Hulsewé**, A.F.P., trans. “Group A: Eighteen Ch’in Statutes,” “Group E: Rules for Sealing and Investigating” in *Remnants of Ch’in Law* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1985), 21-92. (Gauchospace)

Week 6: Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016: “Burning the Books & Burying the Scholars” *fenshu kengru* 焚書坑儒

- Peer review and discussion of thesis statement and outline.
- Proper methods of citation and referencing.
- Exercises on revising faulty sentences and citations.

Readings (to be completed before class):

**Sima Qian**, *Records of the Grand Historian*, 53-5, 184-5, 79-80.

**Wei Hong** (ca. AD 57), “melon version” from *Hanshu* chapter 88 commentary. (Gauchospace)

**Zhang Jie**, “Book-Burning Pits” [ca. 877 CE] (Gauchospace)

**Zhang Binglin** (1869-1936), “An Essay Concerning Literature during the Qin” (Gauchospace)

**Lu Xun** (1881-1936), “A Discussion of the Similarities and Differences Between Chinese and German Book-Burning” [1933]. Translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low. (Gauchospace)

**Shih Ting** (Shi Ding), “Clarifying ‘Burning Books and Burying Confucian Scholars Alive.’” [1973] (Gauchospace)

**Mao Zedong**, written and spoken comments by Chairman Mao concerning Qin Shihuang. Translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace)

**Neininger**, Ulrich, “Burying the Scholars Alive: On the Origin of the Confucian Martyrs’ Legend.” (Gauchospace)

In class: Artistic depictions of the *fenshu kengru* incident (Yuan and Qing). Movie clip from *Shin no Shikôtei* (1962).

Week 7: Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Traditional Literature and Legends

- Discussion on the use of legends, folk literature, or oral accounts for historical analysis.
- Discussion of research papers and a Wikipedia experiment.

Readings (to be completed before class):

Anon., “The Legend of Meng Jiangnü” (Gauchospace)

**Rappaport**, Doreen, *The Journey of Meng* (Dial, 1991) (Loan from instructor)

**Needham**, Joseph and **Liao** Hung-ying trans., “The Ballad of Meng Chiang Nu Weeping at the Great Wall,” *Sinologica* 1 (1948): 194-209. (Gauchospace)

Anon., “The Legend of the First Emperor of Qin and the Goddess Hot Springs.” (Gauchospace).

**Liu Xiang** (ca. 77-6 BC), Stories and Legends of the Qin Found in the *Shuoyuan* [Garden of Stories]. (Gauchospace).

**Wang Jia** (d. 390 AD), Stories and Legends of the Qin Found in the *Record of Gleaned Remnants* (Shiyi ji) (Gauchospace)

Anon., “The Legend of the Nine Tripods of the Zhou”(Gauchospace).

Week 8: Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016: Modern Fiction and Drama

First draft of paper due to instructor and your peer-review group (on Gauchospace).

**In class peer-review of first draft**

Discussion on how to revise a paper.

Readings (to be completed before class):

**Guo** Moruo 郭沫若 (1892-1978), “Qin Shihuang jiang si” 秦始皇將死 [The First Emperor of Qin Approaches Death] (1936), Translated by Leslie Wallace, Edited by Anthony Barbieri-Low. (Gauchospace)

**Qiu** Weng, pseudonym of Ping Jinya (1892-1978), “The First Emperor of Qin Goes to Sea Seeking the Immortals” (written 1942). Translated by Anthony J. Barbieri-Low. (Gauchospace)

Lévi, Jean, “The Mechanical Men,” a chapter from *The Chinese Emperor*, 1987.  
(Gauchospace)

**Clip of TV serial: *Qiansui qingren [Eternity]*, 1993. (shown in class)**

Week 9: Tuesday March 1, 2016: Modern Cinema & The Story of the Assassin Jing Ke

- Viewing of other film and TV serial clips
- Movie night for screening *The Emperor and the Assassin* (TBA)

Readings: (be sure to read before you see the movie)

**Sima Qian**, “The Biography of Jing Ke,” in *Records of the Grand Historian, Qin Dynasty*, 167-178.

**Zheng Wen 鄭問**. “Jing Ke” 荊軻 [Biography of Jing Ke], in *Cike liezhuan 刺客列傳* [Biographies of the assassin retainers] (Taipei: Shibao Wenhua Chubanshe, 1987), 88-112. Translated by Leslie Wallace. Edited by Anthony Barbieri-Low.  
(Gauchospace).

**Rushton**, Peter, trans., Selections from *Yan Danzi* (Prince Dan of Yan), in *Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations*, edited by Y.W. Ma and Joseph S.M. Lau (Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, 1996), 43-9. (Gauchospace)

**Tao Qian** (ca. 312-ca. 427) (and others), “In Praise of Ching K’o,” in *The Poetry of T’ao Ch’ien* Translated and annotated by James Robert Hightower (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970), 225-229. (Gauchospace)

**Huang Tao 黃濤**, “The Dagger at the End of the Map Could Not Save the Counterrevolutionary Party,” *Renmin Ribao* [People’s Daily], December 25, 1973. [Gauchospace of partial translation]

Week 10: Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Illustrations, Comic Books, Graphic Novels

Discussion of *Prince of Qin* and other video games set in the Qin.

- First presentations of final paper (depending on class size).
- Movie night for screening: *Hero* TBA (followed by discussion of both movies).

Readings: (read before class)

Anonymous Yuan Dynasty artist, *Quanxiang Qin bing liuguo pinghua* 全相秦併六國平話 (AD 1321-1323) [Illustrated Romance of the Qin conquest of the Six States].(Gauchospace)

**Huang Yi 黃易**(original author) and **Liao Fucheng 廖福成** (artist), Selections from *Xun Qin ji 尋秦記* [Searching out the Qin]. 48 volumes. Hong Kong: Caiye Zhizuo, 1999. Chapter 1 of volume 1 translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace).



**Zheng Wen** 鄭問. Selections from “Han Feizi pian” 韓非子篇 [The Chapter of Master Han Fei] in *Shihuang* 始皇 [First Emperor]. Hong Kong: Dongli Chuban, 2000. Part one of three parts, translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace).

**Hirase Takao** 平隆郎 (Tokyo Univ. Professor, chief editor) and **Nozawa Mami** 野澤真美 (illustrator), “Shin no shikōtei to tenka tōitsu” 秦の始皇帝と天下統一 [The First Emperor of Qin and the Unification of All Under Heaven] in *Sekai no rekishi* 世界の歴史 [History of the World] vol. 3. (Tokyo: Shūeisha, 2002), chapter 3. Partially translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace).

**Gonick**, Larry. Selections from *The Cartoon History of the Universe II: Volumes 8-13, From Springtime in China to the Fall of Rome* (New York: Doubleday, 1994), pg. 92-118. (Gauchospace).

**In class viewing of portion of TV serial version of *Xun Qin ji*.**

Week 11: Tuesday, March 15th (YES, FINALS WEEK): Assessments in the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

- Presentations of final paper, 15 min. each.
- Please return any games, CD's, videos or books borrowed from the instructor.
- **Complete your optional Wikipedia project and send the article title to the instructor.**

The final revised paper is due to me on Gauchospace by, **Wednesday March 16th, 5pm**. No exceptions.

Readings: (to be discussed in we have time)

**Zhang Binglin** 章炳麟 (1869-1936) “Qin zheng ji” 秦政記 [Account of Qin Governance]. Translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace)

**Guo Moruo** *Shi pi-pan shu* 十批判書 [Ten Critiques of Classical Philosophy]. Written between 1934-1945, first published in 1945, revised in 1950 and republished in 1954. . Excerpts translated by Leslie Wallace, Edited by Anthony J. Barbieri-Low. (Gauchospace). Read biography of Guo Moruo through wikipedia.org.

**Mao Zedong**, written and spoken comments by Chairman Mao concerning Qin Shihuang. Translated by Anthony Barbieri-Low (Gauchospace)

**Lin Ligu** and **Lin Biao** (AD 1908-1971), “Outline of Project 571.” (March, 1971) (Gauchospace, pp. 45-57)  
[This is within the larger article of documents by Kau Ying-mao]  
Read entries on “Lin Biao”, “Cultural Revolution” and “Gang of Four” on Wikipedia.org.

**The Mass Criticism Unit of Peking and Tsinghua University**, *Lüelun Qin Shihuang de baoli* 略論秦始皇的暴力 [A Short Description of Qin Shihuang's Violence], *Renmin ribao* [People's Daily], January 21, 1974. Translated in *Survey of China Mainland Press*, no. 5553: February 14, 1974, pp. 104-112. (Gauchospace).