This seminar is intended for students who have already taken several courses in Chinese history. It is designed to accomplish four objectives: (1) To provide a broad acquaintance with the development of Chinese history, from earliest times to the present, allowing students to synthesize previous work in this area. (2) To trace a theme throughout that history. This year we will focus on $li$ (ritual) and its manifestations in various social and historical situations. (3) To learn research methods, sources, and aids, for both traditional and modern China. (4) To put these various skills to work in writing a twenty-page research paper.

In pursuing the first goal, the overview of Chinese history, we will work with a textbook, with secondary literature, and with primary sources. The textbook is Fairbank and Reischauer's *China--Tradition and Transformation*, which is available for purchase in the bookstore. We will go through this book at roughly a dynasty a week, reading from fifty to one hundred pages at a stretch. Additionally each week we will read an article or two from the English language secondary scholarship and one or more translated primary texts from the period under discussion. Each week I will ask you to write a short (1-3 page) paper in response to significant issues from these readings.

The second goal of the course is to investigate the topic of $li$. $Li$ can be translated in many ways--ritual, rites, ceremony, etiquette, propriety, social forms, or formal behavior. We will examine texts and examples of $li$ from early times to the present--from Confucius to Jiang Zemin. We'll discover various ways in which ritual interacts with politics, religion, society, and most other forms of human life.

The third goal of the course is to help you learn how to discover almost anything you can about China. I will hand out some materials to assist you in this from Andrew Nathan, *Modern China, 1840-1972: An Introduction to Sources and Research Aids*. This is a very useful guide to bibliographies, biographical dictionaries, atlases, newspapers, etc. We will do some short research exercises based on this material in order to give you hands-on experience. On 1 October we will meet with reference librarian Sydnae Steinhart in the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library to try out some recently developed electronic means of access. We will complete this part of the course in the first seven weeks of the semester.
From the very beginning you should think about your research topic, the fourth aspect of this course. I'll be glad to meet with you individually if you need help in developing your ideas. I will ask you to write up a two-page brainstorm by 24 September and to provide a detailed critical bibliography by 8 October. You will next be asked to exchange abstracts and to give a five-minute oral report to the class on 29 October. A copy for each of us of the completed draft is due on 26 November, or you will not be allowed to leave for Thanksgiving vacation. I will distribute the copies, and we will discuss each other's drafts on 3 December. I will also meet individually with you to go over your draft during the last week of classes. The final version should be handed in by 2:00 on Wednesday, 18 December, the day that our final exam would have taken place. (There is no final examination in this course.)

Because we meet only once a week, it is important not to miss class. It's also necessary to hand in the short weekly papers at the course meeting when they are due, since we will be discussing those topics in class that day. The final grade will be determined by weighing equally the short papers, the research paper, and class participation.

My office phone is -3524; home phone 729-4493. Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 11:00, and by appointment, but I’m in the office much of the time anyway. E-mail to <kidder>.