

Instructor: Lawrence Zhang
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Office Hours: W 9:30 – 11:00 am, 3:00-5:00 pm

Asian Studies 28/History 28c: The History of Tea in East Asia

Tea is the most widely consumed beverage in the world. Its consumption began in China, and the first book on tea, Lu Yu's *Classic of Tea*, was written in the 8th century. Since then it is a habit that has spread far and wide, and its cultivation spans the globe from Japan to Argentina. This course is designed to explore the origins of tea drinking, the transmission of tea culture to Japan, Inner Asia, and then to the West, and the role tea played in trade and commerce in the Early Modern world, with a focus on its development in East Asia. Through an understanding of the context in which tea drinking took place it also gives us insight as to the changes that were taking place in the societies that enjoyed this beverage.

As this is a first year seminar, its intentions are two fold. One is the objective of exposing students to the subject at hand, but the other and arguably more important goal is to familiarize students with the practice of history and historical analysis. This includes intensive writing, reading, and research exercises for the course of the class. While some portions of the course will be lecture based to provide the necessary background for the week's reading, much of the class will be based on discussions of the readings and the documents assigned. As such, a thorough preparation before each class and active participation is essential to the success of the course.

Evaluation:

10% internet assignment
10% map quiz
30% attendance/participation
16% response papers
14% film analysis
25% object history paper

All assignments must be completed in order for the student to receive a final grade.

Texts:

Mair, Victor H. and Erling Hoh, *A True History of Tea*, London: Thames & Hudson, 2009.
Okakura Kakuzo, *The Book of Tea*, San Diego: Stone Bridge Press, 2006.

All articles and selections not from these two texts are on reserve. They are marked with “R:” before the citation

I will provide my own translations of some of the older Chinese texts on tea. Such items are marked with an asterisk and will be provided during the course.

Tea demonstrations:

As this is a class on tea, approximately once a week there will be a tea tasting held in class. Sometimes this will be a useful exercise in trying to put into practice what we have read for that particular class, while in other cases it is a way to facilitate discussions. While this can be a very useful tool to learn more about the material of the course, it is by no means compulsory and **students who do not wish to partake any tea in class should feel free to say so, either before or during the class.** Doing so will *not* affect the student’s final grade in any form.

Field Trip:

Depending on logistics, there is a likelihood that a field trip of this course will be organized sometime in November to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. The PEM has a great collection of Chinese export art, many of which are related to tea drinking. Salem was also one of the main entrepot of Chinese goods, one of the most important of which was tea. Since travel to Salem takes about 2-2.5 hours one way, the trip will likely have to be on Friday or Saturday. Therefore, factoring in individual student schedules, details of the trip will be discussed during the course of the semester.

Academic Honor Code:

All works done for the course will be governed by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the details of the Code, and if there is any question about any aspects of the Code, please ask.

Laptops & electronic devices:

Laptops are only allowed during the portions of the course when the instructor is lecturing. It is awkward to have a laptop in front of each student during discussions, so please refrain from using a laptop during those portions of the course and prepare alternative methods of note-taking/referral. Also, cell phones and other devices that will make noises during the class need to be shut off (no vibrating backpacks, please!)

Written Work:

Internet Assignment

This is a short research assignment on the various types of tea, using only sources available on the internet. The end result of the work is a short presentation to the class and a written summary of the sources used. Details for the assignment will be given out during the second meeting of the class.

Response Papers

Each student should write FOUR response papers during the course of the semester. Response papers should be between 1-2 pages in length (12 pt, Times New Roman, double spaced, normal 1" margins). They should address the readings assigned for the day (or week if applicable) they are handed in. They should demonstrate the student's familiarity with the readings, as well as any issues that are raised within each piece or set of reading, how they may engage readings that were assigned previously, or other related topics. Response papers will be graded on a check-plus/check/check-minus basis.

Film Analysis

We will be watching one film this semester in its entirety, and a 5 page written assignment will be due a week later on issues surrounding the film.

Object History Paper

This is the final project in this course. Students will be asked to choose an historical object related to the topic of tea and to explore its background, uses, and other relevant information. Using information learned during the course of the semester and independent research, each student is expected to produce a final paper and present his or her findings to the class during the final meeting of the course.

Class schedule:

3rd Sept: Introduction to *Camellia Sinensis*
Mair, chs 1-2, appendix C

8th Sept: Origins of tea drinking
Mair, ch. 3

10th Sept: Tang dynasty and the Classic of Tea (in class presentations)
Mair, ch. 4
R: Lu Yu, *The Classic of Tea*, trans. Francis Ross Carpenter, Boston: Little Brown, 1974. *Selections*

15th Sept: Tea in the Song dynasty
Mair, ch. 5
*Cai Xiang, *Cha lu* (A Record of Tea), selections.
*Song Huizong, *Daguan chalu* (The Treatise on Tea of the Dagan Reign, 1107-1110), selections.

Internet Assignment Due – annotated list of websites

17th Sept: Tea in the steppes and the tea and horse trade
Mair, ch. 6
R: Smith, Paul J., *Taxing Heaven's Storehouse: Horses, Bureaucrats, and the Destruction of the Sichuan Tea Industry, 1074-1224*, Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 1991. *Selections*

Internet Assignment Due – in-class presentations

22nd Sept: Early tea in Japan and Korea

Mair, ch. 7

R: Ludwig, Theodore M., “Before Rikyu. Religious and Aesthetic Influences in the Early History of the Tea Ceremony,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Winter, 1981), pp. 367-390

R: Brother Anthony of Taize, “A History of Tea in Korea”, *The Korean Way of Tea*, Seoul: Seoul Selections, 2007, p. 89-100.

24th Sept: Tea and Japan in the Warring States period

Mair, ch. 8

R: Bodart, Beatrice M., “Tea and Counsel. The Political Role of Sen Rikyu,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Spring, 1977), pp. 49-74.

R: Berry, Mary E., *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994, pp. 242-4, 259-84.

Map Quiz

29th Sept: Rikyu

Movie: Rikyu (1989)

1st Oct: The advent of leaf brewing in the Ming dynasty

Mair, ch. 9

*Gu Yuanqing (1487-1565), *Cha Pu* (A Tea Reference), selections.

6th Oct: Ming dynasty and the new commercial culture

* Tu Long (1542-1605), *Cha jian* (Notes on Tea), selections.

* Gao Yuanjun (?-?), *Cha cheng* (A Treatise on Tea), selections

Film Analysis Due

8th Oct: Having tea with the barbarians

Mair, ch. 10

R: Compressed or Tablet Tea, [*Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information \(Royal Gardens, Kew\)*](#), Vol. 1890, No. 42 (1890), pp. 109-112

15th Oct: Russia

Mair, ch 11

20th Oct: Tea in the Middle East

Mair, ch. 12

R: Matthee, Rudi, “From Coffee to Tea: Shifting Patterns of Consumption in Qajar Iran”, *Journal of World History*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Fall, 1996), pp. 199-230.

22nd Oct: First taste of tea in the West

Mair, ch. 13

- R: Jamieson, Ross W., "The Essence of Commodification: Caffeine Dependencies in the Early Modern World," *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Winter, 2001), pp. 269-294.
- 27nd Oct: American trade in tea
- R: Kuo, Ping Chia, "Canton and Salem: The Impact of Chinese Culture upon New England Life during the Post-Revolutionary Era", *The New England Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (Jul., 1930), pp. 420-442
- R: Hao, Yen-P'ing, "Chinese teas to America: a synopsis", in *America's China Trade in Historical Perspective: the Chinese and American Performance*, Cambridge, Mass. : Committee on American-East Asian Relations of the Dept. of History in collaboration with the Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1986.
- Peabody Essex Museum website
- 29th Oct: Tea export from China
- R: Gardella, Robert, "Introduction", *Harvesting Mountains: Fujian and the China Tea Trade, 1757-1937*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.
- R: Cook, Walter F., "The Study of Retail Prices in Boston and Vicinity", *Publications of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 2, No. 11/12 (Sep. - Dec., 1890), pp. 116-119
- 3rd Nov: Opium War
- R: Downs, Jacques M., "American Merchants and the China Opium Trade, 1800-1840", *The Business History Review*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Winter, 1968), pp. 418-442
- R: A Resident in China, "The Rupture with China, and its causes, including the opium question, and other important details: in a letter to Lord Viscount Palmerston", Knowsley Pamphlet Collection, 1840, 62 pages.
- 5th Nov: Opium War II
- R: Melrose, William, *William Melrose in China, 1845-1855*, Edinburgh: Scottish History Society, 1973, xlvi-lxix, 34-85, 268-9.
- 10th Nov: Tea in a changing world
- R: Gardella, Robert, "Tea Processing in China, circa 1885: A Photographic Essay," *The Business History Review*, Vol. 75, No. 4 (Winter, 2001), pp. 807-812.
- R: P'u -êrh Tea, *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Gardens, Kew)*, Vol. 1889, No. 29 (1889), pp. 118-120
- R: P'u-êrh Tea, *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Gardens, Kew)*, Vol. 1889, No. 30 (1889), pp. 139-142
- 12th Nov: Tea in a changing world II

- R: Hill, Ann Maxwell, "Chinese Dominance of the Xishuangbanna Tea Trade: An Interregional Perspective", *Modern China*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Jul., 1989), pp. 321-345
- R: Lin, Man-Houng, "Overseas Chinese Merchants and Multiple Nationality: A Means for Reducing Commercial Risk (1895-1935)", *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Oct., 2001), pp. 985-1009.
- 17th Nov: Okakura Kakuzo and modern Japan
Okakura Kakuzo, *The Book of Tea*, San Diego: Stone Bridge Press, 2006.
Selections
- 19th Nov: Tea in India
R: Misra, Sib Ranjan, "Origin, Development and Importance of the Tea Industry in India", *Tea Industry in India*, New Delhi: Ashish Publishing House, 1986, chapter 1.
- 24th Nov: Tea ritual as tradition -- Japan
R: Hobsbawn, Eric, et al., "Introduction: Inventing Traditions", *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 1-15.
R: Kondo, Dorinne, "The Way of Tea: A Symbolic Analysis", *Man*, New Series, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Jun., 1985), pp. 287-306
R: Mori, Barbara Lynne Rowland, "The Tea Ceremony: A Transformed Japanese Ritual", *Gender and Society*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Mar., 1991), pp. 86-97
- 1st Dec: Tea ritual as tradition -- China
- 3rd Dec: Teahouse as a social space
Freeman, Michael, *The Modern Japanese Tea Room*, Bologna: Damiani Editore, 2007. *Selections*
R: Wang, Di, *The Teahouse: Small Business, Everyday Culture, and Public Politics in Chengdu, 1900-1950*, Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2008. *Chapters 4 & 6*.
Wicentowski, Joe, "Narrating the Native: Mapping the Tea Art Houses of Taipei", http://www.international.ucla.edu/cira/paper/TW_Wicentowski.pdf
- 8th Dec: Tea consumption in a globalized world
Clip from movie: *Densha Otoko* (2005)
R: Lee, Leo Ou-fan, *City Between Worlds: My Hong Kong*, Cambridge, MA: Belknap Harvard, 2008, ch.7.
- 10th Dec: Object history presentations