EALC 736          Historiography of the Mongol Yuan Empire

Thursday 3-6, Williams Hall #438

Office Hours: M, 1-2 and by appointment

Syllabus (preliminary; more to come)

The aim of this course is to introduce graduate students to the peculiarities of sources relating to the Mongol Yuan empire (and believe me, they are very peculiar). To handle these sources we will 1) acquire background knowledge about the period and the major historical events; 2) survey the range of the multi-lingual traditions and genres represented with some consideration of the strengths and weaknesses; 3) learn about methods of textual, analytical, and redactional criticism that are often more used in West and Central Asian historiographies; 4) practice reading inscriptions and legal texts in the very odd literal translation from Mongolian to Chinese current in the Yuan dynasty. Upon completion, students will be able to use the wide range of sources available on the Mongol Yuan empire to conduct original research on major topics.

Languages: The Mongol empire was extraordinarily multi-lingual, and important sources cover a wide range of materials. While ability to read classical and modern Chinese is generally expected, there is enough available in translation to allow interested students with other language competencies (Persian first and foremost, also Mongolian, Tibetan, Armenian, Romance languages, etc.) to do great work. I welcome students with reading abilities in these languages to consider the class, and will work with them to craft an alternative syllabus that works for them.

Weekly Assignments: In addition to preparing the readings for discuss, students will be required to perform a kaozheng task set by the instructor (these will be adjusted for the language competency of the students). (Where more than one assignment has been chosen, the student may chose.) The kaozheng results will be written up in a brief summary handed in the class after the one where the topic is discussed. (In other words, the kaozheng assignment should be done using the resources and concepts discussed in class).

Students must do 10 kaozheng assignments to earn full credit. Each kaozheng task will earn 5 points.

Each kaozheng

Grades: 50% kaozheng tasks; 50% final seminar paper
Summary Weekly Syllabus

Week 1: January 12
Historiographical Traditions: Chinese

Week 2: January 19
Song and Jin Writings on the Mongol Conquest; Lower Criticism

Week 3: January 26
Phonology and transcriptions; why Siku quanshu editions are to be avoided if possible for the Yuan

Week 4: February 2
Historiographical Traditions: Perso-Arabic

Week 5: February 9
Rashid al-Din and his predecessors and successors; More Lower Criticism and some Higher Criticism

Week 6: February 16
Travel Literature: Polo, Ibn Battuta, Odoric, and others; Yet more Lower Criticism

Week 7: February 23
Historiographical Traditions: Uyghur and Mongolian; a bit of Tibetan

Week 8: March 2
Secret History of the Mongols and the Campaigns of Chinggis Khan; Higher Criticism

Week 9: March 16
Making of the Yuan shi: The Basic Annals in three stages. 1) first 5 Reigns; 2) Qubilai to Tuq-Temür; 3) Shundi

Week 10: March 23
Making of the Yuan shi: Biographical Literature; Guochao mingchen shilue

Week 11: March 30
Making of the Yuan shi: Treatises; Jingshi dadian and Tables

Week 12: April 6
Inscriptions and Legal Literature; Literal Translation Method; Yuan dianzhang, Tongzhi tiaoge, Zhizheng tiaoge.

Week 13: April 13
Biji; Local Gazetteers; late Yuan unofficial histories
Week 14-15: April 20

Student Presentations, writing seminar paper
Weekly Bibliographies

Week 1

Historiographical Traditions: Chinese


General Reference:


Endymion Wilkinson, *Chinese History: A Manual* and *Chinese History: A New Manual*. Regularly updated since 1973, with different color dust-jackets. My personal favorite is the “yellow one” (2000); the *New Manual’s* since 2012 (purple and green) seem to have added immensely to the bulk without adding proportionately much to the urgently needed content.

Atlases:


Dictionaries of Official Titles and Historical Periods:


Qiu Shusen 邱樹森, *Yuanshi cidian* 元史辭典, Jinan: Shandong Education Press, 2002

Dictionaries: Chinese


Jurchen and Tungusic languages


Mongolian languages (modern based, none based on Middle Mongolian, although Volker Rybatzki is working on one)


Cheremisov,


Turkic (Uyghur): frequently mocked and rather out of date, but not yet replaced


Philological Guides

Doerfer, Gerhard. Türkische Und Mongolische Elemente Im Neupersischen. Wiesbaden: F. Steiner, 1963. This multivolume dictionary is an essential source for not just Mongolian (vol. 1) and Turkic (vols. 2-4) words in New Persian, but also Chinese and other East Asian language words which were transmitted to Persian sources via Mongolian or Turkic. Reason enough to learn some German.

General Anthologies

Yuan Wen lei “Anthology of the Yuan Dynasty”: 


Text databases:

Hanji ziliao ku http://hanchi.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/ihp/hanji.htm;
中□□典古籍□: www.gujilianhe.com.cn Includes the complete 全元文

Source books

Bretschneider, E. Mediaeval Researches from Eastern Asiatic Sources Fragments Towards the Knowledge of the Geography and History of Central and Western Asia from the 13th to the 17th Century Trubner’s Oriental Series. London: K. Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., ltd, 1967. The anthology was produced in 1888. The translations are clunky, use obsolete systems for transcribing languages, and have no adequate commentary. For a number of sources, however, they remain the only available English translations.
Week 2

Song and Jin Writings on the Mongol Conquest; Lower Criticism

Sources:

Li Xinchuan 李心傳, ed. Xu Gui 徐規, Jianyan yilai chaoye zaji 建炎以來朝野雜記 [1216] (2000);
Zhao Gong 趙珙, ed. Wang Guowei 王國維 “Meng-Da beiu jianzheng 蒙鞑備錄箋證,” In Menggu shiliao sizhong 蒙古史料四種 [1221] (1926); translation: Atwood and Struve

Peng Daya 彭大雅 & Xu Ting 徐霆, ed. Xu Quansheng 戚全, Hei-Da shilue jiaozhu 黑鞑事略校注 [1237] (2014); translation: Atwood and Struve

Yuan Haowen 元好問, Yuan Haowen wen biannian jiaozhu 元好問文編年校注, ed. Di Baoxin 狄寶心 (2012); many other editions exist.


Studies, Private Histories:

Chaffee, “The Historian as Critic: Li Hsin-ch’uan and the Dilemmas of Statecraft in the Southern Song.” From Ordering the World, ed. Schirokauer and Hymes.

Hartman, “Li Hsin-ch’uan and the Historical Image of Late Sung Tao-hsüeh,” JA5 (2001);


Studies, Standard Histories:

Chan, Historiography of the Chin Dynasty: Three Studies (1970);

Week 3
Phonology and transcriptions; why Siku quanshu editions are to be avoided if possible for the Yuan Phonology

Sources:

Zhaonasitu 照那斯□ [Jūnast] and Yang Naisi □耐思, Menggu ziyun jiaoben 蒙古字韵校本. (1987);


Literature:

Coblin, A Handbook of ’Phags-pa Chinese (2007);


Reference:

Pulleyblank, Lexicon of Reconstructed Pronunciation in Early Middle Chinese, Late Middle Chinese, and Early Mandarin (1991).

Names

Muslim Names:


Turkic Names:


Mongol Names:


See comments in Atwood, Encyclopedia, s.v. “names, personal” and “clan names”

Manchu Names:


Mongolian vocabularies:

**Zhiyuan yiyu 至元譯語:**


**Hua yi yi yu 華夷譯語:**


**Rasulid Hexaglot (Yemen):**


**Muqaddimat al-Adab**

Other, minor vocabularies

**Name Indices**


**Pelliot (and Hambis) works:**


Siku Quanshu alterations list:

Week 4

Historiographical Traditions: Perso-Arabic

Reading as Sources:


Reading as Historical Interpretations:


Reading as Literary Works:

Week 5

Rashid al-Din and his predecessors and successors; More Lower Criticism

Studies:


Sources:


Nasawī:


Rashīd al-Dīn, Compendium of Chronicles. Section One: Ghazanid History:


Rashīd al-Dīn, *Compendium of Chronicles*. Section Two: World histories:

Week 6

Travel Literature: Polo, Ibn Battuta, Odoric, and others; Yet more Lower Criticism

Marco Polo

Text:

Critical edition of the Ramusio text (Italian) with complete texts of all other major witnesses: http://virgo.unive.it/ecf-workflow/books/Ramusio/main/index.html

Older English translations


English Translations


English commentaries by Sinologists


Ibn Baṭṭūṭa, standard English translation:


Ibn Baṭṭūṭa, commentary

**Week 7**

**Historiographical Traditions: Uyghur and Mongolian; a bit of Tibetan**


Zhang Tieshan & Peter Zieme, “A Memorandum about the King of the On Uyghur and His Realm,” *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hung.* vol. 64 (2), 129–159


Week 8

Secret History of the Mongols and the Campaigns of Chinggis Khan; Higher Criticism

*Secret History of the Mongols:* preferred editions, concordances, and translations:


*Shengwu qinzheng leng*: existing editions


Pre-critical studies, by Atwood


Source-critical studies, by Atwood


Week 9
Making of the Yuan shi: The Basic Annals (first 5 Reigns; Qubilai to Tuq-Temür; Shundi)
Background: Twitchett, Writing of Official History Under the T’ang (1992), pp. 119-87;

Week 10
Making of the Yuan shi: Biographical Literature; Guochao mingchen shilue
Su Tianjue’s Yuanchao mingchen shilue:

Indices:

Index to Biographical Material in Chin and Yuan Literary Works, [by] Igor de Rachewiltz and Miyoko Nakano (vol. 1), May Wang (vols. 2-3). Oriental monograph series, no. 6, 11, 20. Canberra, Centre of Oriental Studies in association with Australian National University Press, 1970-79. 3 vols. “To be used in conjunction with, and as a supplement to, the Combined indices to thirty collections of Liao, Chin and Yuan biographies ....”


Translations of Biographies


Background:


Schneewind, “Reduce, Re-use, Recycle: Imperial Autocracy and Scholar-Official Autonomy in the Background to the Ming History Biography of Early Ming Scholar-Official Fang Keqin (1326–1376),” *OE* (2009);

Hok-lam Chan, “A Recipe to Qubilai Qa’an on Governance: the Case of Chang Te-hui and Li Chih,” *JRAS, Series 3*, vol. 7, no. 2 (1997), pp. 257-283
Week 11

Week 11 bibliography

General:


Wang, Shenrong 王慎荣, Yuanshi zhuzhi yu Jingshi dadian 《元史》□志与《世大典》, Shehui Kexue jikan 社会科学□刊, 1990 年 02 期, 70-76.


Geography:


Translations and Studies of Treatise on Food and Money:


Translations and Studies of Treatise on Military:

Hsiao, Ch'i-ch'ing, The military establishment of the Yuan dynasty, Cambridge, Mass.: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1978 (chap. 98, 99)

Translations and Studies of Treatise on Post roads:

Haneda Torū 羽田亨, Genchō ekiden zakko 元朝驛傳雜考, Tōyō bunko 東洋文庫, Tōkyō, Tōyō Bunko, Shōwa 5 [1930].


Translations and Studies of Treatise on Rituals:


Translations and Studies of Treatise on Law:


Translation and Studies of Treatise on Offices:

Lam, Yuan-chu, "The first chapter of the 'Treatise on selection and recommendation' for the Civil Service in the Yuan shih", Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 1979


Translation and Studies of Treatise on Annual Grants

Togan, Isenbike, "The chapter on annual grants in the Yüan shih", 2vol. PH.D diss., Harvard University, 1973

Translations and Studies of Tables:


Background of composition of statecraft books:


Hok-lam Chan, “‘Comprehensiveness’ (T‘ung) and ‘Change’ (Pien) in Ma Tuan-lin’s Historical Thought,” in *Yuan Thought*, ed. de Bary, pp. 27-87 (1982);
Week 12

Inscriptions and Legal Literature; Literal Translation Method; *Yuan dianzhang, Tongzhi tiaoge, Zhizheng tiaoge*.

Inscriptions

Mongolian in Uyghur script:

1254: Sino-Mongolian inscription at Shaolinsi, 1254.


1261: Sino-Mongolian inscription at Shaolinsi, 1261:


1268: Sino-Mongolian inscription at Shaolinsi, 1268:


1277: Sino-Mongolian inscription of Jibe-Temūr, 1277:


1335: Sino-Mongolian inscription in memory of Zhang Yingrui, 1335:


1338: Sino-Mongolian inscription in memory of Jigüntei, 1338:


1340: Sino-Mongolian inscription of Prince Aruq:


1346: Sino-Mongolian inscription of Xingyuan Ge in Qara-Qorum:


1348: Sino-Mongolian inscription excavated at Qara-Qorum:


1362: Sino-Mongolian inscription in memory of Prince Hindu:


Mongolian in Square Script:


Uyghur Inscriptions

1334: Sino-Uyghur inscription in memory of the Iduq-Qut, Princes of Gaochang:


Chinese vernacular inscriptions


*Yuan dianzhang:*


Studies and Translations


Week 13

Biji; Local Gazetteers; late Yuan unofficial histories

Studies:


Weeks 14 and 15

Student Presentations, writing seminar paper