

**University of North Carolina at Greensboro**  
**HIS 511C - Seminar in Historical Research and Writing**  
**The Chinese City in the 20th century**

Spring Semester 2015

M 3:30-6:20pm, MHRA 1211

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: [http://www.uncg.edu/his/docs/Anderson\\_index.html](http://www.uncg.edu/his/docs/Anderson_index.html)

Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50 a.m., and by appointment

**Introduction:**

This course will examine the transformation of the modern Chinese city in the 20th century. Topics examined during the semester will include the role urban centers played as a source of political and intellectual movements in modern Chinese society, peasant revolutions, Chinese cities during the May Fourth Movement, urban crime and the policing of urban society, popular urban protest in the rise of nationalism and communism, and city life since the 1949 founding of the People's Republic of China. Most importantly, students in this course will be responsible for individual research projects, for which they will locate and use historical source materials, written and oral, published and unpublished. Comparing and analyzing a variety of primary source materials, students will write their own histories of Chinese urban centers and in the end develop their skills in observing societies with different origins than their own.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- ❑ Construct persuasive written arguments with the use of primary source materials as supporting evidence.
- ❑ Understand better the effect the ancient past has had on the modern world.
- ❑ Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

**Course Requirements**

I expect all students to attend and participate in all class meetings. Moreover, the completion of all written assignments is necessary for a passing grade. No “incompletes” will be given for this class. Please remember to plan ahead! Because this class is both Writing Intensive (WI) and Speaking Intensive (SI), I have incorporated opportunities for criticism and improvement following the first writing and speaking assignments. I will also require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Grading (Undergraduates)**

Research exercises	20% (average of grades for three assignments)
Historiographical essay (4-5 pages)	10%
Class presentations	20% (10% each)
Final paper (15-20 pages)	30%

Class participation 20%

### **Grading (Graduate students)**

Final paper (25-30 pages) 50%  
 Historiographical essay (4-5 pages) 10%  
 Class presentations 20% (10% each)  
 Class participation 20%

### **Detailed Description of Graded Assignments**

#### **1. Research assignments**

All undergraduate students will be required to complete a series of research exercises during the course of the semester. Each assignment must be completed by the assigned due date. Detailed descriptions of these assignments will be included at the end of this syllabus. Here is a summary list of these assignments:

1. Project Description (**Due February 9**) Research Assignment #1
2. Preliminary Bibliography, (**Due February 23**) Research Assignment #2
3. Critique of a Peer's Paper (**Due April 13**) Research Assignment #3

#### **2. Historiographical Essay**

A historiographical essay is a critical overview of a variety of historical interpretations of an oftentimes narrowly focused topic. Such essays can take different forms, and we will discuss these forms during this course. All undergraduate students in this class will produce a 4-5 page historiographical essay, in which they will compare the main arguments of the 6-10 secondary sources they have located for their research paper.

#### **3. Class presentations**

All students will be required to give two presentations to the class during the semester. We will discuss the nature of these presentations later on in the course. All students enrolled in this class must attend a speaking workshop **on February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **4. Final Paper**

All students will produce a research paper, based on both primary and secondary sources, by the end of this semester. Paper topics may vary by individual interest and focus on specific events, but the general theme all students will examine will be the nature of Chinese urban society from the Late Imperial era to the modern period. Please remember that the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

All students will supply briefly annotated bibliographies with their final essays. An annotated bibliography is a list of books, articles, and documents, in which each entry is followed by a brief description of the source itself. These descriptions, or annotations, are provided to advise the reader on the accuracy and usefulness of the materials you have cited in your bibliography.

Please remember that all students will submit preliminary versions of their annotated bibliographies in class **on February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. For a better sense of what it entails to create an annotated bibliography, I urge everyone to visit the Cornell University Library's web site at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>. This page contains a very good overview of the process. The Cornell Library's tutorial page, titled "Skill Guides: How to Find Specific Resources," is filled with other useful information. This page may be found at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/tutorialsguides.html>.

## 5. Class Participation

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing.

**Note:** I ask that all students submit a 1-page summary and two discussion questions for each chapter from the texts that we will discuss during the first weeks of the semester. These submissions will be posted to Canvas in the appropriate forum **by 11pm the Sunday evening prior to the class meeting**.

### Web Site contributions

I have created a web site for this classroom, which you and I will continue to expand as the semester progresses. Together we will discuss options for the expansion of the course web site during the first weeks of class. Students also can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as links to web sites of interest to our class. I urge everyone to visit the site *Critical Thinking on the Web: A Directory of Quality Online Resources* (<http://austhink.com/critical/>) before "surfing" through these on-line materials. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for additional discussion materials.\*

### Required Reading

1. Wu, Weiping, and Piper Rae Gaubatz. *The Chinese City*. London: Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 9780415575744.
2. Xu, Yinong. *The Chinese City in Space and Time: The Development of Urban Form in Suzhou*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2000. ISBN: 9780824820763. (**See Canvas**)
3. Yeh, Wen-Hsin. *Shanghai Splendor: Economic Sentiments and the Making of Modern China, 1843-1949*. Berkeley, Calif: University of California Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780520258174.
4. Wu Hung. *Remaking Beijing: Tiananmen Square and the Creation of a Political Space*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780226360799.
5. Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2012. 7th Edition. ISBN-13: 9780312610418.

\*All other materials, if any, for this course will be available on electronic reserve.

<b>READING SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>WEEK'S TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>
<b>January 12:</b> Course “nuts and bolts” and topical introduction	<b>No required reading.</b>
<b>January 19: MLK Jr. Day</b>	<b>No Class.</b>
<p><b>January 26:</b> Approaches to Urban History in China</p> <p><b>Skills Discussion:</b> Choosing a research topic; finding sources</p>	<p><b>Required Readings:</b> Man, “Urbanization and Historical Change,” Johnson, “New Approaches,” Goodman, “Politics of Representation” (<b>Canvas e-reserve</b>). Wu and Gaubatz, <i>The Chinese City</i> (Introduction).</p> <p>Rampolla, <i>A Pocket Guide to Writing History</i> (Chapters 1-2, Appendix B).</p>
<p><b>February 2:</b> History and Context</p> <p><b>Skills Discussion:</b> Various styles of history writing</p> <p>(Class continues in classroom at 5:00pm.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIBRARY WORKSHOP</b> (Jackson Library Computer Lab, 3:30-4:45pm )</p> <p><b>Required Readings:</b> Wu and Gaubatz, <i>The Chinese City</i> (Part I, pp. 9-68).</p> <p>Rampolla, <i>A Pocket Guide to Writing History</i> (Chapter 3).</p>
<p><b>February 9:</b> Urbanization</p> <p><b>Skills Discussion:</b> Writing a History Paper</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPEAKING CENTER WORKSHOP</b> (Classroom, 3:30-4:30pm )</p> <p><b>Required Reading:</b> Wu and Gaubatz, <i>The Chinese City</i> (Part II, pp. 69-130).</p> <p>Rampolla, <i>A Pocket Guide to Writing History</i> (Chapters 4-5).</p> <p><b>Research Assignment #1 due in class.</b></p>
<p><b>February 16:</b> Urban Development, Student Conferences</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Wu and Gaubatz, <i>The Chinese City</i> (Part III, pp. 131-216).</p>
<p><b>After 5:00pm:</b> class time reserved for student conferences to discuss preliminary bibliographies.</p>	

<p><b>February 23:</b> Urban Life</p> <p><b>Skills Discussion:</b> Plagiarism and Documenting Sources</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Wu and Gaubatz, <i>The Chinese City</i> (Part IV, pp. 217-281).</p> <p>Rampolla, <i>A Pocket Guide to Writing History</i> (Chapters 6-7).</p> <p><b>Primary Source Checklist Exercise</b></p> <p><b>Research Assignment #2 due in class.</b></p>
<p><b>March 2:</b> Class Presentations</p>	<p><b>Class Presentations</b></p>
<p><b>MONDAY, March 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p>	<p><b>HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS</b></p>

**SPRING BREAK: March 7, Saturday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 1:00 pm**

**March 16, Monday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 am**

<b>WEEK'S TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>
<p><b>March 16:</b> Suzhou</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Xu, <i>The Chinese City in Space and Time</i> (Introduction, Chapters 1-3)</p>
<p><b>March 23:</b> Suzhou</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Xu, <i>The Chinese City in Space and Time</i> (Chapters 4-7, Conclusion)</p>
<p><b>March 30:</b> Shanghai</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Yeh, <i>Shanghai Splendor</i> (Introduction, Chapters 1-3)</p>
<p><b>April 6:</b> Shanghai</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Yeh, <i>Shanghai Splendor</i> (Chapters 4-7, Epilogue)</p>
<p><b>MONDAY, April 6<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE IN CLASS (<u>two</u> copies)</b></p>
<p><b>April 13:</b> Beijing</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b> Wu, <i>Remaking Beijing</i> (Introduction, Chapters 1-5, Coda)</p> <p><b>Research Assignment #3 due.</b></p>

<b>April 20:</b> Beijing in Film	<i>Beijing Blues</i> (2012)
<b>April 27: Final Class Presentations</b>	<b>Class Presentations &amp; Final Remarks Last Day of Class</b>
<b>MONDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>GRADUATE RESEARCH PAPERS DUE</b>
<b>MONDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PAPERS DUE</b>

**POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS**

Architecture

City Planning

Class Relations

Crime

Cultural and Intellectual Communities

Economic Development

Ethnic Relations

Family life

Imperial period urban centers

Labor Movements

Media

Nationalism

Political Movements (Nationalism, Communism, Anarchism)

Popular Culture (literature, film, music)

Post-1949 urban life

Post-1978 urban life

Public Health

Sports

Trans-local Communities

Transportation

Urbanization of Chinese society

Urban Administration

Urban life in Greater China (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore)

Urban-Rural Relations

Wartime city life

## SELECTED RESEARCH SOURCES

### ANTHOLOGIES

Asia for Educators (Columbia University) <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/index.html>

Cheng, Pei-Kai and Michael Lestz with Jonathan Spence, eds., *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, New York: Norton, 1999.

Davidson, Martha, *A List of Published Translations from Chinese into English, French, and German*. New Haven: Far Eastern Publications, 1957.

de Bary, William Theodore and Irene Bloom eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Two Volumes. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.

de Crespigny, Rafe. *To Establish Peace. Being the Chronicle of Later Han for the Years 189 to 220 AD as Recorded in Chapters 59 to 69 of the Zizhi tongjian of Sima Guang*. ANU, 2004 on-line source. URL: [http://dspace.anu.edu.au/html/1885/42048/peace1\\_index.html](http://dspace.anu.edu.au/html/1885/42048/peace1_index.html)

Ebrey, Patricia, ed., *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. 2nd. Ed. New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Ebrey, Patricia et. al, eds., *A Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization*  
<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/>

Halsall, Paul. *Internet East Asian History Sourcebook*  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html>

Lau, Joseph and Howard Goldblatt, Eds. *Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*. NY: CUP, 1994.

Mair, Victor, Ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

McDougall, Bonnie and Kam Louie. *The Literature of China in the Twentieth Century*. NY: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Sima, Qian, and Burton Watson. *Records of the Grand Historian of China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1961.

Stephen Owen, ed., trans. *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1996.

### RESEARCH GUIDES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Chow, Tse-tsung, *Research Guide to the May Fourth Movement*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1963.

Elman, Benjamin A., *Classical Bibliography for Chinese History*, UCLA Social Science Computing Center, URL: <http://www.princeton.edu/chinese-historiography/>.



Fairbank, John King and Kwang-ching Liu, *Modern China: A Bibliographical Guide to Chinese Works 1898-1937*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950.

Fessler, Susanna and Anthony Deblasi, *East Asian Research and Bibliographic Methods*, University at Albany, Department of East Asian Studies, URL: <http://www.albany.edu/eas/205/>.

Lecher, Hanno, *Internet Guide for Chinese Studies (IGCS)*, Institute of Chinese Studies, Heidelberg University, URL: <http://projects.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/ighist.htm#china>.

Littrup, Leif, *Studiematerialer om Kinas historie (Reference Works for Chinese Studies)*. University of Copenhagen, Department of History, URL: <http://littrup.blogs.ku.dk/links-til-undervisning-nyere-kinesisk-historie/>. (Text is in Danish, but individual links are in English.)

Nathan, Andrew. *Modern China, 1840-1972: An Introduction to Sources and Research Aids*. Ann Arbor: U. Michigan Center for Chinese Studies, 1973.

Teng Ssu-yü *Protest and Crime in China: A Bibliography of Secret Associations, Popular Uprisings, Peasant Rebellions* New York: Garland Pub., 1981

Wilkinson, Endymion *Chinese History: A Manual*. Revised and enlarged (*Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series 52*) Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Zurndorfer, Harriet *China Bibliography: A Research Guide to Reference Works about China Past and Present* Leiden: Brill, 1995.

## PERIODICALS AND MISSIONARY RECORDS

### Guides:

Britton, Roswell S., *The Chinese Periodical Press 1800-1912* Taipei: Chi'ng-Wen Publishing Company, 1966.

King, Frank H., and Prescott Clarke, *A Research Guide to China-Coast Newspapers, 1822-1911*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965.

Archie R. Crouch, *Scholar's Guide to China Mission Resources in the Libraries and Archives of the United States* Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 1989.

Tung, Julia. *Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. Bibliography of Chinese Government serials, 1880-1949: material in Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace* Stanford: East Asian Collection, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1979.

Widor, Claude. *The Samizdat Press in China's Provinces, 1979-1981: An Annotated Guide*. Stanford: Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1987.

### Sources:

China [microform] New York : Division of Foreign Missions, NCCCUSA, Far Eastern Joint Office, China Committee Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 278; 1850-1869.

China [microform] New York : Foreign Mission Conference of N.A., Far Eastern Joint Office, China Committee, [1947-1951] Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 278; Feb,1947-Dec. 1950.

China bulletin [microform] New York: Division of Foreign Missions, NCCCUSA, Far Eastern Joint Office, China Committee, [1951-1952] Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 278; OCT.

China bulletin of the Far Eastern Joint Office, Division of Foreign Missions, NCCC/USA [microform] New York: [The Office, 1952-1956] Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 278; Feb.1952-Dec 1956.

*Chinese Communist affairs, facts & features.* Taipei, Institute of International Relations (LC # D839 .C455)

*North China herald, and Supreme Court and consular gazette.* Shanghai, H. Shearman. Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 588; 1870-1900.

North-China herald. Shanghai [etc.] *North-China Daily News & Herald.* Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 588; 1850-1869.

*People's daily online* [electronic resource]. Beijing: People's Daily Online, c2000- present. (WWW access from Library home page).

**Powell, J. W. *China Monthly Review.* Shanghai, China: Millard Pub. Co, 1950. (FILM 8401 1950: SE-1953: JL) NEW!**

The China press (*Ta-lu pao*) (Shanghai, China) Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 5117; 1916-1924, 1949: Apr.1-May 26.

The Chinese recorder [microform]. Shanghai: American Presbyterian Mission Press, 1912-1938. Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 3963; v.70-72.

The Chinese recorder and educational review [microform]. Shanghai: Editorial Board, [1939-1941] Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 3963; v.43-69.

The Chinese recorder and missionary journal [microform]. Foochow: [s.n., 1868-1912] Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 3963; v.1-43, 19.

The Missionary recorder [microform]. Foochow: American M.E. Mission Press, 1867. Jackson Library Collection Microforms Film 3963; c.1, v.1, 1867

*Xinhua News Agency news bulletin.* Hong Kong : N.C.N. Ltd., 1985- present. (WWW access from Library home page).

## CONTEMPORARY NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

### [Humanities & Social Sciences Abstracts](#) (1907 to present)

Coverage includes a wide range of interdisciplinary fields covered in a broad array of humanities and social sciences journals. There are some foreign language titles included prior to 1965; thereafter all titles are in English.

**New York Times Historical (1851-1999)**

A fully searchable full-text collection of every article having appeared in the *New York Times* from 1851-1999.

**PAIS. Public Affairs Information System Bulletin (1915 to 1976)**

An index and bibliography of periodical articles, government publications, pamphlets and other material.

**Nineteenth Century British Library Newspapers (1800-1906)**

*Poole's* is one of the few indexes to British 19th century magazines and journals.

**Nineteenth Century US Newspapers**

*Poole's* is one of the few indexes to US 19th century magazines and journals.

**Reader's Guide Retrospective (1890-1982)**

The great index to U. S. (and some British) popular and general interest magazines of the Twentieth Century. It includes news magazines

**Times Digital Archive (1785-1985)**

The *Times* of London. This database provides full-text images of each page of every issue of the *Times*.

**PERSONAL RECORDS AND MEMOIRS**

Search in [WorldCat](#) to identify works that UNCG may not have.

UNCG's catalogues of e-books may be accessed [here](#).

Use [Early English Books Online](#) (EEBO) to identify traveler's accounts, reports of early exploration and reports of commercial and diplomatic relations in China published in Great Britain from 1475-1700. EEBO provides the full text of all titles.

**Church Missionary Society Archive UNC (Davis Library): BV2500.A2 C4943 2000**

The Church Missionary Society was a voluntary organization within the Church of England very active during the 19th century. China had become, beginning in 1844, the scene of extended CMS missionary activity. This set provides the letters, reports and papers associated with the main centers of CMS activity in South, West and Mid-China from 1834-1951. Within *Microfilm 3309*, go to Section 1: East Asia. Parts 10-19 cover the China Mission. The library has a printed guide to Parts 10-14 at *Microform Reference BV2420 .K43 Sect. 1 Pt. 10-14*. Online guides to the parts of the collection covering China are listed below:

Part 10: China Mission, 1834-1914

Part 11: South China Mission, 1885-1934

Part 12: South China Mission, 1888-1934

Part 13: Chekiang Mission, 1885-1934

Part 14: Chekiang Mission, 1888-1934

Part 15: Western China Mission, 1897-1934

Part 16: Western China Mission, 1898-1934 and Fukien Mission covering 1900-1934  
 Part 17: Fukien Mission, 1911-1934  
 Part 18: Fukien Mission, 1900-1934, Kwangsi-Hunan Mission, 1911-1934, China General Mission, 1935-1951 and South China Mission, 1935-1951  
 Part 19: South China Mission, 1935-1951, Chekiang Mission, 1935-1951, West China, 1935-1951, Fukien Mission, 1935-1951, and Kwangsi-Hunan Mission, 1935-1951

## INDEXES TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES

### [Lexis-Nexis Congressional](#) (1789-1969)

Indexes and identifies publications in the U.S. Serial Set (covering a wide range of topics related to specific legislative bills) and transcripts, testimony and evidence published in connection with Congressional hearings.

**Foreign Broadcast Information Service daily report. China, FBIS daily report.** (UNC Davis Library)

**British Documents on Foreign Affairs: Reports and Documents from the Foreign Office Confidential Print** (Duke-Perkins/Bostock Library)

Part I: Series E: Asia, 1850-1913 *JX632 .B748 1989*  
 Part II: Series E: Asia, 1914-1939 *JX632 .B767 1991*  
 Part III: Series E: Asia, 1940-1945 *JZ632 .B765 1997*  
 Part IV: Series E: Asia, 1947-1949 *JZ632 .B775 1999*

The "Confidential Print" was a means of distributing diplomatic dispatches and other papers among government offices and agencies. These documents were generally reports of conditions or other matters in a country or area that observers, diplomatic, military, or civilian, thought important. All of these volumes have a table of contents with two or four word descriptions of the contents of each document.

[Policing the Shanghai International Settlement, 1894-1945](#) (UNCG Archives Unbound Database)  
 Archives of the British-run municipal police force based in Shanghai's former International Settlement that collected intelligence on political demonstrations, strikes, labor and social unrest, foreign and domestic subversive activities, and areas of dispute between the International Settlement and the Chinese government.

[Records of the National Council for United States-China Trade 1973-1983](#) (UNCG Archives Unbound Database)

Documents the formation of the National Council for United States-China Trade and its role in the development of U.S.-China trade, and the Council's library holdings relating to China's trade and economy.

### **NOTE:**

For these links and others, please visit the extremely useful Jackson Library website "Primary Sources for History: Archives and Online Collections," maintained by librarian Kathy Crowe. The URL for this site is <http://uncg.libguides.com/c.php?g=83554&p=535897>



**Appendix #1:****RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION<sup>1</sup>****Due: Monday, February 9, in class****Assignment:** On a sheet of paper, please type the following:

1. List your General Topic
  2. Come up with a more specific Research Question (one sentence)
  3. Write one (1) paragraph describing how you will answer this question
  4. Append a list of one (1) primary and one (1) secondary source appropriate to your question.
- Remember: all of these may well change in the next few weeks, but I'd like to see you try to sketch out a project as soon as possible.

**Explanation of the Assignment:****1. General Topic:**

Here I am asking for the research theme that first caught your eye. It is necessarily broad and descriptive.

**2. Research Question:**

Every historian begins her/his research with a question. The question helps to determine what you hope to uncover about your general topic. Your topic may be the Boxer Rebellion, but, as your professor will probably say to you, "What about the Boxer Rebellion?" In other words, what are you hoping to find out about your topic? It is important to have a research question (or perhaps one or two questions) before starting to do your research, or else you won't know what to look for. Keep in mind, too, that it is very common for your question to change as you do research.

Keep in mind that there are several kinds of questions. The weakest questions require a description for their answer. Hence the question "What happened during the 1989 Tiananmen student demonstrations?" requires only that you find some texts about the students demonstrations and report back about them. In a way, such a question is more suited to journalism than it is to history. A second, more impressive question is one that requires analysis in answering it. This question, "What did the organizing tactics of Tiananmen demonstrators tell us about the prevalent political climate of Chinese society in 1989?" clearly requires you to do more than simply file a report. It requires you to think about the meaning of your topic to particular people in particular circumstances. This is the stuff of history.

Your research question is something that you should keep in the forefront of your mind for the entire semester. Constantly ask yourself "Why am I reading [whatever source]? What am I looking for?" Your research question will guide your reading appropriately.

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<sup>1</sup> A special word of thanks to Professor Rick Barton for his assistance with the description of these assignments.

### 3. Brief Description of the Project:

Explain to me how you think you will pursue the research question you have just asked. You might discuss the kinds of sources you know (or hope) are available, and suggest some preliminary conclusions to your question. I only need a short paragraph here.

### 4. A List of Two Sources:

Please provide the bibliographic information for one primary source and one secondary source that you feel will be relevant to your topic. Should you be at a loss for sources, you might consult the bibliographies in our course materials, or you can speak with me. If you are having trouble keeping primary and secondary sources straight, please refer to the Library of Congress's reference page ([http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/start/prim\\_sources.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/start/prim_sources.html)) for this topic. The University of Washington (my *alma mater*) Suzallo Library's web page "Using Primary Sources on the Web" (<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/RUSA/>) is also a very useful resource, although the documents available for topics in Chinese history are somewhat more limited than is the case in other areas of history.

**A tip on formulating Research Questions:** [taken from Gregory G. Colomb et al., *Craft of Research*, p. 44]

It may help in formulating your Research Question to work through the following sequence of questions.

1. Name your topic:

"I am studying [topic]

2. Imply your question:

"because I want to find out who/how/why \_\_\_\_\_"

3. State the rationale for the question and project:

"in order to understand how/why \_\_\_\_\_"

### Words of Wisdom: Make Use of Note cards

Make sure you are well stocked with note cards. Note cards are the researcher's best friends. I find it best to extrapolate a concept or topic from the quotation you are making note of and record it in the upper left corner. Try to be consistent in coming up with categories. In the upper right, you might note either the type of source (primary v. secondary), or something more specific (like the genre of the source). The point of a note card is not to copy down lots of information - that would be wasting your time. The point of a note card is to construct a reminder to yourself of sources that contain evidence relating to a particular topic/concept. Then when you sit down to write your paper, you can collect all your note cards and set them out before you; as you set out to write each section, you can pull all the note cards pertaining to the section at hand. It will save you lots of time flipping through books or large, unorganized notebooks.

**Appendix #2:****RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #2: PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY****DUE: Monday, February 23, in class**

Assignment:

1. Prepare a preliminary bibliography for your topic. This bibliography should include 8-12 items, divided into the following categories (arrange works alphabetically within each section):

I. Primary Sources: I expect to see 1-3 listed.

II. Secondary Sources

A. Books (I expect 4-6)

B. Articles (I expect 2-4)

2. Provide a short annotation with each bibliographic entry that includes a 1-2 sentence rationale for that source (i.e., why you think it'll be useful). You may place this comment immediately after the bibliographic entry.

**Reminders:**

A. Remember that primary sources are those written during the period you are studying; secondary sources are analyses by modern writers.

B. Books: often there will not be a book on your specific topic. Most scholars look for books to provide general or background information on the time period, region, or concept that interests them. You ought to be able to find books relatively easily by using any of the bibliographies listed on Bob Gaines's History 511 Web-page or my own web page.

C. Articles: while it is generally harder for students to find articles than books, the reward is much greater. Articles, if well selected, often pertain more directly to the topic at hand and often provide much more specific interpretations against which you can shape your own argument. To find articles, use bibliographies and footnotes in books you have located, and/or the on-line databases, such as Expanded Academic Index, Web of Science, and JSTOR located on the library's Electronic Databases page.



**Appendix #3:****RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #3: CRITIQUE OF PEER'S PAPER****DUE: Monday, April 13, in class****Assignment:**

Write a short (no more than 2 page) critique of your colleague's paper. Provide two (2) copies of that critique (one for your colleague, and one for me).

**Components of the Critique:** your critique should cover some or all of the following areas and/or questions.

1. **Thesis/Argument:** What is the argument of the paper? Is it clearly identified? Does the author maintain it throughout the paper? Does he/she successfully prove his/her point? How might the argument be strengthened?
2. **Historiography:** If appropriate, comment on how well the author situates his/her paper in the existing literature. That is, has the author examined the existing literature? How does his/her paper contribute to, modify, or reject the existing literature?
3. **Evidence:** Does the author possess sufficient evidence of sufficient quality to support his/her argument? Or does the evidence suggest something else? Does the author explain his/her evidence, or does he/she assume that you will see the importance of it? If the latter, how might he/she improve his/her discussion of the evidence?
4. **Structure:** Is the paper well organized? Could you follow the line of the argument? If not, how might the organization of the paper be improved? Remember that the ideal paper is like an assembly line, with each paragraph adding a bit more to the product until the conclusion, at which point you have a unified, coherent whole. Look for superfluous paragraphs and/or areas where expansion of the theme is necessary.
5. **Style:** Be careful and kind here. Everyone possesses an individual style. Still, you might well consider how the author's style helps and/or hinders the paper.
6. **Citations:** Does the author cite sources in a consistent way? Do the citations (either footnotes or endnotes) provide the needed support for the argument? That is, are they useful or are they peripheral to the argument?
7. **Grammar and Typos:** does the paper contain grammar errors and/or misspelled words? You only need comment on this if there is a serious problem (anyone can leave a few typos, but it's only worth commenting upon if they become so numerous as to detract from meaning).

