

History 875 / EALL 705 Spring 2020
Tang Documents

Valerie Hansen
Luke Bender

Wednesdays 1:30-3:20pm, 143 Elm St, room 106 (?)

Valerie Hansen office: Rosenkranz 342 (2-0480, with answering machine), office hour XX
Luke Bender office: 143 Elm St, room 201 (2-5823), office hour Monday 2-4pm.

valerie.hansen@yale.edu
luke.bender@yale.edu

Introduction:

This course provides an introduction to the different types of sources available for the study of Tang history and literature.

This course has several goals. The first, and most important, is to familiarize the members of the seminar with the different types of Tang documents that survive: the dynastic histories, other chronicles, literati notes, collected papers, chuanqi fiction, transformation texts, and poetry. The second goal of the class is to give you a sense of which documents are most likely to contain material that you can use in your dissertation or for another project. The course will teach you how to analyze the sources a scholar has used to write a monograph in this field, and you will learn how to trace sources cited in someone else's footnotes (not always a straightforward task!). Finally, the course seeks to prepare you to use online tools responsibly. The way scholars of premodern China work has already been transformed, but we must always remember that, although these databases allow you to locate material more easily, the material you analyze still comes from the books whose contents were shaped by their original genres. The web is a constantly changing source so we welcome suggestions from you about good electronic resources (please send any suggestions via email to all members of the seminar). Michael Meng, Librarian for Chinese Studies, will help us with this part of the class. He will attend some of our sessions and introduce important on-line sources and help you to access these resources.

Each unit will include short translations from Classical Chinese. Such assignments will generally be short; for most assignments, I encourage you to work together or to seek assistance from someone with a good grasp of the language. For a few assignments, I will specify that you must work on your own. As is standard academic practice, you should note when you have received any assistance, whether in reading classical Chinese or in writing English. If you wish to translate a different passage in a specific genre, please get my approval first.

Course requirements:

Prompt completion of the weekly assignments (67% final grade) and a final paper, no more than 3000 words (approximately 10 pages in length) (33% final grade), due December 12 at 5 pm. You have two options:

- 1) genuine or hypothetical grant proposal for a research project. We will study how to write a research proposal during the semester. As you may know, research proposals almost always

include a review of the secondary literature as well as a discussion of the sources. This course will focus on the section about sources.

- 2) a book review in which you discuss the author's use of primary sources and check all the sources cited in that book (which can be in a Western language, Chinese, or Japanese). Use the long reviews in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies as your model.

Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan 15). First class. Introduction to reference books, dictionaries, online materials, and each other.

Week 2 (Jan 22). Introduction to the official histories. Class handouts on English-language materials. Translation of the TOC from a dynastic history of your choice due in class.

Week 3 (Jan 29). Official histories, cont. In-class translation of passages from the official histories about Tang Taizong and the Xuanwu Gate incident.

Week 4 (Feb 5) Tang historiographical theory.

- Selections from Liu Zhiji, *Shitong* (from 劉家 and 自序?)
- Translations from *Shitong* by William Hung and Stuart Sargent?
- Historiographical theory

Week 5 (Feb 12) Other genres of Tang historiography.

- Du You, *Tongdian*, structure, XX
- Selections from Du You, *Tongdian*. (section on the exams)
- Penelope A. Herbert, *Examine the Honest, Appraise the Able*. Selections

Week 6 (Feb 19) Different prose styles? Different poetry styles?

Week 7 (Feb 26) [Luke Traveling] Han Yu, *Shilu*; other fragments

Week 8 (Mar 4) Tang poetry. Everyone chooses a minor poet and collects and annotates their poems, discusses their sources, figures out biography and bibliography, gives a presentation.

Week 9 (Mar 25) Turfan documents

- Rebecca Fu?
- Zekun?

Week 10 (April 1) Tang *wenji*. What's in a *wenji*? How are they compiled? Transmitted? Organized? Preserved?

- Stephen Owen, "The Manuscript Legacy of the Tang: The Case of Literature"
- Selections from Liu Yujun 劉玉珺. *Siku Tangren wenji yanjiu* 四庫唐人文集研究. Chengdu: BaShu shushe, 2010.
- Xu Hun 許渾 (jinshi 832) collection traced into Yue Ke's 岳珂 (1183 - 1234) *Baozhengzhai fashu zan*. (?)
- Nugent
- Case study.

Week 11 (April 8) Tang *chuanqi*.

- Selections from Allen, *Shifting Stories* (Cambridge, Ma: Harvard Asia Center, 2014).
- Selections from Dudbridge, *The Tale of Li Wa* (London: Ithaca Press, 1983).
- Comparison of 枕中記 from *Taiping guangji* and *Wenyuan yinghua*

Week 12 (April 15) Dunhuang bianwen. Taizong's visit to hell. Li Chunying's *biji* account on Taizong's visit to hell.

- Taizong's visit to hell?
- Wu Zixu bianwen?
- David Johnson, "The Wu Tzu-hsu Pien-wen and Its Sources" Parts I and II *HJAS*, Volume 40.1 (June 1980) pp. 93-156; *HJAS*, Volume 40.2 (Dec.,1980) pp. 465-505.
- Mair?

Week 13 (April 22) Final project beginnings?

- Twitchett article on Sun Kuo?
- Follow a scholar's footnotes (fillet a scholar!)