Department of History
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
HIS 3508 Topic Studies in Chinese History: Microcosm of Chinese History
(2005-2006 International Summer Term)
Term Period: 19 June to 28 July 2006

Course Lecturer
Prof. ZHAO Shiyu
Prof. Zhao is a professor in the Department of History at Beijing Normal University. Trained as a folklorist and a long-time Beijing resident, he is the leading historian of social life in Beijing. His other research interests include urban history and social history of the Ming and the Qing dynasties. Among his many publications is the highly acclaimed The Carnivals in Daily Life: The Temple Fairs and Local Society Since Ming and Qing Dynasties, Beijing: Sanlian 2002.

Tutor
Mr. KWOK Kam Chau, Daniel
Email: Daniel_kc@hotmail.com

Class Period
Every Monday and Wednesday, 2pm to 5pm

Venue
Room 706 Mong Man Wai Building

Medium of Instruction
English

Course Description
This course examines the foundation of the city of Beijing, its layout, expansion, and city life. It looks at the palace complexes and relates them to the imperial family and the imperial aristocracy of the Ming and Qing dynasties. It will also explore the very rich ritual life of the capital, encompassing the religious role of the emperor as well as popular beliefs centred at shrines and temples. By exploring the history of Beijing, this course will provide background for more than a thousand years of Chinese history.
Course Outline

1. 3000 Years & 800 Years: Beijing’s City Building and Its Establishment as a Capital
2. Yuan Da Du and the Multi-culture in the Mongol Empire
3. The Great Wall and Beijing
4. The Grand Canal and Beijing
5. Capital Region in the Ming-Qing Period: Three Cultures and Three Circles
6. The Social Spatial Structure of Beijing in the Ming-Qing Period
7. The Stories in the Forbidden City: The emporers and their times in Ming and Qing dynasties (1)
8. Stories in the Forbidden City: The emporers and their times in Ming and Qing dynasties (2)
9. Temples and the Religious life in Beijing
10. Tianqiao, A Popular Space for entertainment on the urban fringe
11. Tianan-men: An Epitome of Modern China’s Political Movements
12. Daily Life in Beijing Past

Course Requirement

1. Four tutorial discussions, among which there will be two movie sessions and two report representations.
2. Two tutorial report papers. No more than 1,000 words for each one. Must be handed in after report representation.
3. One semester paper. No more than 3,000 words. Must be handed over one week after the last course.

Course Assessment

1. 40% for tutorial performance and tutorial report papers (20 percent for each reporting tutorial)
2. 60% for semester paper.

References

1. Yue Dong, Madeleine, Republican Beijing, The City and Its Histories, University of California Press, 2003
2. Chan, Hok-lam, “A Mongolian Legend of the Building of Peking”, in his China and the Mongols, History and Legend under the Yuan and Ming, Ashgate, 1999
Tutorial
Tutorial:
1. Selected Watching the Documentary Series, Forbidden City
2. Discussion: Beijing, Late Imperial China and the World
3. Watching the Movie, Tea House
4. Discussion: Beijing, From Traditional to Modern

Reference for Tutorial
Cohen, Paul, Discovering History in China, American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past, Columbia University Press, 1984
Struve, Lynn, “introduction” in her Time, Temporality, And Imperial Transition, University of Hawaii Press, 2005
Struve, Lynn, “introduction” in her The Qing Formation in World-Historical Time, Harvard University Press, 2005