Course Description:
This course will examine the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) in its historical manifestations, literary representations, and contemporary re-imaginings in various popular media. The course will introduce students to the fundamental issues pertaining to this last imperial dynasty of China, the scholarly interpretations of these issues, and the lasting fascination with the dynasty, particularly its emperors and empresses, in film and television entertainment in Mainland China since the 1990s till the present.

Expectations & Assignments:
The course is designed as an upper-division lecture/discussion class. Students will be responsible for weekly readings, participation in discussion (both in class and on Canvas), one presentation, two papers of 5-6 pages in length, several short in-class assignments, and a take-home final exam.

Grading Distributions:
- Two papers (20% each)
- Class participation (15%)
- Presentation and in-class assignments (20%)
- Final take-home exam (25%)

Flag:
This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Required Texts (available at UT Co-op Bookstore):


Students are encouraged to browse online used bookseller sites to find cheap copies of all the assigned monographs. These books are also on reserve under the course number at the UT Main Library. Additional required readings will be available online via the course website (indicated by * in the weekly listings below). Students will be expected to read the assigned weekly readings and post one question or observation on weekly readings on Canvas before coming to the class. Weekly posting is due 10am each Thursday. Each week’s readings should be brought to class for discussion.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week One: Introduction**

Class One (8/25) – Overview and Expectations

Readings.

**Week Two: Dynastic Origins I**

Class One (8/30) – 17th-Century Crisis

Class Two (9/1) – Discussion: *The Manchus* I

Readings.
Crossley, *The Manchus*, preface & 1-46;
**Week Three: Dynastic Origins II**

Class One (9/6) – Issues in the Historiography of the Qing


Readings.

**Week Four: Pax Manjurica**

Class One (9/13) – Establishing a New Order

Class Two (9/15) – Discussion: *The Manchu Way* II

Readings.

**Week Five: Manchu & Han I**

Class One (9/20) – Yongzheng: Then and Now

Class Two (9/22) – Discussion: Excerpt from *The Yongzheng Dynasty*

Readings.
Spence, *Treason by the Book*, 1-190;
*Ying Zhu, “Yongzheng Dynasty and Totalitarian Nostalgia,” Zhu, Keane, and Bai eds., TV Drama in China* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2008), 21-32.

Video.
Excerpt from *The Yongzheng Dynasty*: contemporary soap opera

**Week Six: Manchu & Han II**

Class One (9/27) – Manchu Identity and Sinicization

*First paper due at the beginning of the class*

Class Two (9/29) – Discussion: *Treason by the Book*

Readings.

**Week Seven: The High Qing**

Class One (10/4) – State & Society in the Qianlong Era

Class Two (10/6) – Discussion: *Story of the Stone*

Readings.

**Week Eight: The Qing Imperium**

Class One (10/11) – Techniques of Empire Building

Class Two (10/13) – Discussion: *Opera and the City*

Readings.
*Goldman, *Opera and the City*, chs. 2 & 3;*

**Week Nine: Prosperity or Roots of Decline?**

Class One (10/18) – Popular Culture in the Qing

Class Two (10/20) – Discussion: *Soulstealers*

Readings.
Kuhn, *Soulstealers*, chs. 1-5, 10.

**Week Ten: Clash of Empires**

Class One (10/25) – Western Imperialism in China

Class Two (10/27) – Discussion: *English Lessons*

Readings.
Hevia, *English Lessons*, chs. 1-4, 10.
Week Eleven: Nineteenth-Century Crises

Class One (11/1) – Internal Unrest and External Threats

Class Two (11/3) – Film: Once Upon a Time in China

Second paper due at the beginning of the class

Readings.
*Kuhn, Rebellion and its Enemies in Late Imperial China: Militarization and Social Structure, 1796-1864 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980), 105-152, 189-225.

Week Twelve: With Regard to Emotion

Class One (11/8) – The Cult of Qing

Class Two (11/10) – Discussion: Stones in the Sea & Sea of Regret

Readings.

Week Thirteen: Gender, Culture, and Power

Class One (11/15) – The Question of Women

Class Two (11/17) – Discussion: Excerpt from Empresses in the Palace

Readings.

Video
Excerpts from Empresses in the Palace: Contemporary TV Drama

Week Fourteen: Through Western Eyes

Class One (11/22) – Discussion: René Leys

Readings.
Segalen, René Leys (in full).

**Week Fifteen: The End of Qing and its Aftermath**

Class One (11/29) – Fiction: *The Travels of Lao Ts’an*

Class Two (12/1) – Film: *The Last Emperor*

Readings.  

**Take-home final exam due Friday, December 2, 3:30 pm**

*Note:* Late work (including papers and exam) will be subject to penalties, including but not limited to the deduction of 1/3 of a grade for each day the assignment is late.

1. Students shall inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if he or she requires any special accommodations due to disabilities.

2. Students will not be penalized because of observances of religious beliefs. Rather, whenever feasible, an opportunity will be given to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Students shall inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if he or she is going to miss any assignments due to religious observances.

3. Students should be aware that all required writing assignments may be submitted to a plagiarism-detection tool such as Turnitin.com. Turnitin is a software resource intended to address plagiarism and improper citation. The software works by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of journals, essay, newspaper articles, books, and other published work. In addition, other methods may be used to determine the originality of the paper. This software is not intended to replace or substitute for the faculty member’s judgment regarding detection of plagiarism.

4. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Violations of ethical academic conduct will be turned over to the Office of the Dean of Students for adjudication.

This syllabus may be subject to change. Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.