

Title	: CHINA AND THE GLOBAL OPIUM TRADE
Course Code	: HST4003
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective Categories 1, 2, 4
Pre-requisites	: None
Co-requisites	: None
Exclusions	: None

Brief Course Description

The course is a writing-intensive seminar focused on the history of the global opium trade between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries, and the place of China in it. Students will closely read a selection of secondary and primary sources the topic of the course, both in English and in Chinese. The course will outline the patterns of consumption and production, and trade in Europe and Asia in the different periods, and the multifarious ways in which opium came to play an important role in modern Asian history on a number of levels: in medicine, leisure, as status symbol, as a fiscal resource, as a monetary surrogate. The main questions the course will focus on will be how opium production, consumption and trade were embedded in culture and power across Asia; how opium was connected with the creation of overseas empires in Asia, and their eventual delegitimization; how it was linked to state-building and state collapse in China during the late Qing Empire and the early Republican period; how opium became a powerful symbol in public discourses about social change and national revival in China. Discussions about the readings will familiarize students with different historical methodologies and sub-disciplines (social history, economic history, cultural history, gender history, etc.).

Aims

The objective of this course will be to give students a fundamental understanding of the patterns of opium production, trade, and consumption in China, while placing developments in the region within continental and global contexts.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Explain different kinds of sources for historical research as pertains the global opium trade, and identify and assess relevant secondary and primary source materials in libraries and in online databases;
2. Contextualize a historiographical text in the evolution of the historical profession, among history's sub-disciplines, in relation to methodological issues and challenges, and based on the primary and secondary sources historians of the field use to make their arguments;
3. Synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate, complex arguments;

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the key historical events related to the global opium trade;
5. Write effective analytical papers, and present and articulate arguments orally.

Indicative Content

- I. The Origins: Opium in Eurasia from Ancient Times
- II. The Social Life of Opium in China during the Fifteenth to Nineteenth Centuries
- III. Opium Production, Consumption, and Taxation in South Asia before the British
- IV. The East India Company and the Opium Trade
- V. Opium, Britain, and China: from the Canton System to the Hong Kong Opium Revenue
- VI. Opium, Chinese Migrations, and Capitalism in Southeast Asia
- VII. Britain: Opium Consumption and the Anti-Opium Movement
- VIII. Medicalization and the Rise of Narcophobia
- IX. The Expansion of State Opium Monopolies
- X. Late Qing Reforms and the End of the India-China Opium Trade
- XI. The Nationalist Anti-Opium Crusade in China and the Guomindang
- XII. Drugs, Warlords and Organized Crime in Republican China
- XIII. Japanese Imperialism and the Opiate Economy in China
- XIV. The End of Opium Consumption in China

Teaching Method

Lectures putting historical primary and secondary sources in their context, as well as structured discussions about specific works, will comprise most of the course. Students will be asked to write different assignments during the course as a build-up towards the final paper.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Produce research questions on a chosen topic, with its relevant bibliography. This will assess the ability to frame historical question in a thoughtful and critical manner (assessing LOs 1, 2, 3, 5);
2. Actively participate in discussions about the required readings; write reaction papers based on the readings; this will measure appreciation of historical methodology and the students' critical interpretive skills (assessing LOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5);
3. Present orally historically sound arguments (assessing LOs 1, 3, 5);
4. Submit a term paper at the end of the course (4,000-word long) to measure analytical and writing skills. The paper will focus on the research topic of the

course. The starting bibliography for the final paper will be provided by the course reading list, to be expanded by independent research on primary and secondary sources (assessing LOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Assessment

Oral Presentation	10%
Research Question and Discussion of Historiography Assignment	15%
Analysis of Primary Sources Assignment	10%
Final Paper	30%
Structured class discussions	30%
Class Participation	5%

Readings

BAUMLER Adam (ed.), *Modern China and Opium*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2001.

BAUMLER Adam, *The Chinese and Opium under the Republic: Worse than Flood and Wild Beasts*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2008.

BELLO, David A. *Opium and the Limits of Empire: Drug Prohibition in the Chinese Interior, 1729–1850*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2005.

BERRIDGE Virginia and Griffith EDWARDS. *Opium and the People. Opiate Use and Drug Control Policy in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

BROOK Timothy and Bob T. WAKABAYASHI, eds., *Opium Regimes: China, Britain, and Japan, 1839-1952*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000 (selected chapters).

CHANDRA Siddharth, “What the Numbers Really Tell Us about the Decline of the Opium Regie.” *Indonesia* 70 (2000): 101-123.

CHANG, Hsin-pao. *Commissioner Lin and the Opium War*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1964.

DIKÖTTER Frank, Xun ZHOU, and Lars LAAMAN, *Narcotic Culture. A History of Drugs in China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

FAY, Peter W. *The Opium War 1840–1842*. Durham: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

FOSTER Anne L. “Opium, the United States, and the Civilizing Mission in Colonial Southeast Asia,” *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* 24 (2010): 6-19.

FOXCROFT Louise. *The Making of Addiction: The 'Use and Abuse' of Opium in Nineteenth-Century Britain*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007.

- GREENBERG, Michael. *British Trade and the Opening of China 1800–1842*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1951.
- HENRIOT Christian. *Prostitution and Sexuality in Shanghai: a Social History, 1849–1949*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- KIPLING Rudyard, *The Gate of the Hundred Sorrows* (1884).
- LIN Man-houng. *China upside down: Currency, Society, and Ideologies, 1808-1856*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2006.
- LOVELL, Julia. *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China*. New York: Picador, 2012.
- MADANCY, Joyce A. *The Troublesome Legacy of Commissioner Lin: The Opium Trade and Opium Suppression in Fujian Province 1820s to 1920s*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- MARTIN Brian G., *The Shanghai Green Gang: Politics and Organized Crime, 1919-1937*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.
- MCMAHON, Keith. *The Fall of the God of Money : Opium Smoking in Nineteenth-Century China*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.
- MILLS James H. and Patricia BENTON (eds), *Drugs and Empires: Essays in Modern Imperialism and Intoxication, c. 1500-c. 1930*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- MORSE, Hosea B. *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China 1635–1834*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1926.
- PAULÈS Xavier, “In Search of Smokers: A Study of Canton Opium Smokers in the 1930s”, *East Asian History* 29 (2005): 107-28.
- PAULÈS Xavier. *Living on Borrowed Time: Opium in Canton, 1906-1936*. Berkeley, CA : University of California Press, 2017.
- POLACHEK, James M. *The Inner Opium War*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992.
- SEDDON Toby. *A History of Drugs: Drugs and Freedom in the Liberal Age*. New York: Routledge, 2010.
- SLACK Edward R. *Opium, State and Society: China’s Narco-Economy and Guomindang, 1924–37*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000.
- SMITH Norman, “Opiate Addiction and the Entanglements of Imperialism and Patriarchy in Manchukuo, 1932-1945” *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* 20 (2005): 66-104.
- TAGLIACOZZO Eric, *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier, 1865–1915*. New Haven: Yale University, 2005.
- TROCKI, Carl A. “The Internationalisation of Chinese Revenue Farming Networks”, in *Water Frontier: Commerce and the Chinese in the Lower Mekong Region*, eds., Nola Cooke and

- Li Tana (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), 159–173.
- TROCKI, Carl A. *Opium, Empire and the Global Political Economy: A Study of the Asian Opium Trade 1750–1950*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- VAN DE VEN, Hans. “Public Finance and the Rise of Warlordism”, *Modern Asian Studies* 30/4 (1996): 829–868.
- WONG, John Y. *Deadly Dreams: Opium and the Arrow War (1856–1860) in China*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- ZHENG Yangwen, “The Social Life of Opium in China, 1483-1999” *Modern Asian Studies*, 37/1 (2003): 1-39.
- ZHENG Yangwen. *The Social Life of Opium in China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- ZHOU Yongming. *Anti-Drug Crusades in Twentieth Century China: Nationalism, History, and State Building*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.