The Chinese World:
A Graduate Seminar

History 630.302

Autumn 2003

Arthur Waldron

Topic:

I believe that the best approach to China is one that sees it not as a nation-state or proto-
nation state (like France) but rather as a world (like Europe). Being a huaren or ethnic
Chinese is like being a European. History 630.302 surveys the world of the huaren,
starting with the people and the present—how many they number, where they are, how
different or similar they are to one another—and then works gradually through a series of
questions about shared characteristics (if any) in psychology, values, family life, arts,
culture, and so forth, before addressing the question: what sorts of states have huaren
formed in the past and present? How have they formed them? Have they any common
characteristics?

This is a very different approach than the usual Xia-Shang-Zhou-Qin . . .Ming, Qing,
Republic, People’s Republic, etc. view, which looks at a single piece of real estate, and
tells a single story.

The second difference between most courses on China and this seminar is the emphasis
placed on reading old books. Once again, this reflects a conviction of mine, which is that
to understand an intellectual pursuit—in this case, the study of the huaren—one must
know how it has developed. Read even the best new books alone and you will not feel
their impact, because you will not understand their context or the arguments, sometimes
stretching back centuries, from which they have emerged. But read old books, and you
will be primed to understand the present.

Meetings: We will normally meet on Thursdays 2:00-5:00 in my office, College Hall 311C.

Blackboard: The course will have a blackboard web site, where maps and reading
materials will be available, as well as a discussion forum, to which the instructor will
address new questions every week and in which you are encouraged to participate.

Requirements: Students are expected to write a standard graduate research paper on a
topic of their choosing (but do consult with me) and to make a presentation. This paper
need not deal with China proper. It can deal with huaren and their culture and society
anywhere.
Course Personnel: I have a regular office hour, Tuesday 1100-1200 at 311C College Hall, telephone 215 898-6565. A sign up sheet will be posted one week ahead. I also encourage use of email: awaldron2@aol.com

Assigned Readings: The assigned books are available at the Penn Book Center (Corner of Walnut and 34th Street, NOT the big University bookstore!) and on reserve in Van Pelt library.

For general reference:


I will also ask you to read the draft of a new textbook on modern Chinese history by S.C.M. Paine and Bruce Elleman (to be distributed in class)

SCHEDULE

Week I. Introduction: (Th 04 September)

Week II. Who are the Huaren today? (Th 11 September)

Reading:


Week III. Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan (Th 18 September)

Readings:


**Week IV. Today’s Western Cultural View of the Huaren**  (Th 25 September)

*Readings:*

Bond, Michael Harris. *Beyond the Chinese Face: Insights from Psychology*.


**Week V. Historical Huaren States**  (Th 02 October)

*Readings:*


**Week VI. State Transitions in Huaren History**  (Th 09 October)

*Readings:*


**Week VII. Huaren States and the World**  (Th 16 October)

*Readings:*

Week VIII. The End of “Traditional” China (Th 23 October)

Readings:

Johnston, Reginald Fleming. *Twilight in the Forbidden City*.

Week IX. Political “Modernity” and the Huaren (Th 30 October)

Readings


Week X. Cultural and Intellectual “Modernity” (Th 06 November)

Readings:

Masson, Michel C. *Philosophy and Tradition. The Interpretation of China’s Philosophic Past: Fung Yu-lan 1939-1949*. Taipei-Paris-Hong Kong: Institut Ricci-Ricci Institute, 1985 [Ricci Institute for Chinese Studies, Hsin-Hai Road, Section 1, Number 24, 8/F Taipei 107, TAIWAN.


Week XI. Mao Zedong (Th 13 November)


Week XII. China and Communism (Th 20 November)

Reading:


**Week XIII     Whither the Huaren?**

*(Th 04 December)*

*Reading:*