

People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them.

- James Baldwin



HIST 4145

Historical Anthropology of Chinese Society

2nd Semester 2018-2019

Course Instructor:
Dr Kwok Kam Chau

This course offers an alternative perspective on the history of China by comparing the timeframes from the Song dynasty to the Republic of China. Students will use field and documentary research to study Chinese society and to evaluate the significance of ritual traditions and local institutions.

Words Matter – Spoken Ones Even More So

Through a two-day field trip to Dongguan, conducting interviews with the elders in old villages in the local community and studying the history of Dongguan in the Ming and Qing dynasties, students will demonstrate how local societies respond to rituals and traditions in the form of newsletters. Oral history can foster intergenerational communication, and the publication will contribute to the mission of Yan Garden, a creative hub located in Dongguan.

Note: this course is open to all as free elective, except for exchange students.