

HIS 354: Traditional China
Professor Jonathan Skaff

Paper 3

Length: 4 to 8 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Due: Monday, May 3, 11:30 pm

- F2F & remote students: Electronic copy submitted to the D2L Assignment folder (MS Word doc or docx format).
- F2F students: Optional hard copy due in class on Wed. May 5 with the grading sheet on page 2 attached. Hard copies will have priority in grading..

Topic: Wu Zhao stands out as one of the most remarkable women in premodern Chinese and world history. From 650 to 690, she was a conventionally powerful imperial Chinese concubine, empress and empress dowager who used her status as lover, wife and mother to aggrandize political power during the early Tang Dynasty. From 690 to 705, she stands alone as the only woman in Chinese history who founded her own dynasty, the Zhou, and ruled directly as emperor, rather than from behind the scenes manipulating a husband, son or grandson.

Write a paper in which you explain her ability to found the Zhou dynasty in 690 that lasted until she was deposed in 705 at 81 years of age. Develop a thesis that considers the factors that allowed her to seize and openly maintain power as a female emperor. In defending your thesis, your paper should demonstrate thorough understanding of the events of Wu Zhao's life and the historical context of the Northern Wei (386-534), Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) dynasties.

In addition to Rothchild's book, *Wu Zhao*, your sources on Wu Zhao's life and the historical background of her rise may include class lectures and readings such as, Hansen's *Open Empire*, electronic reserves on the Northern Wei, and Hinsch's *Women in Early Imperial China*. Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. **NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS TO THEM.**

Citations: The paper should include citations and a bibliography. History majors should use Chicago A (Turabian notes-bibliography) or Chicago B (Turabian author-date) format. Students who are not history majors have the option of using MLA. **Quotations** or **ideas** that you take from your sources should be acknowledged with properly formatted citations and bibliography. Failure to acknowledge the source of a quote or an idea is **plagiarism. Flagrant cases of plagiarism may result in a grade of "F" for the class.**

Evaluation: 80% of the grade will be based on content. The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliography and citations in MLA or Chicago A or B format (4%). Grades of A will be awarded to papers that provide: 1) a thesis that is persuasively defended with evidence drawn from *Wu Zhao*, 2) solid understanding of the historical background derived from lectures and readings, 3) sharp analysis and argumentation, and 4) well-crafted writing that transmits ideas clearly.

Grading sheet (attach to paper)

I. Content (80%)

Understanding of historical background: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Understanding of Wu Zhao's life: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Thesis is clear and defended with persuasive evidence: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower _____

II. Writing mechanics (20%)

A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%) _____

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%) _____

Organization (4%) _____

Readability (4%) _____

Citations and bibliography (Chicago A or B, or MLA, 4%) _____

Total _____

Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper

agr	wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)
awk	awkward sentence
cit	citation needed
frag	sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)
org	organization problems
redun	redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)
rep	repetitious use of the same word
run-on	run-on sentence
sp	wrong spelling
trans	poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)
tn	wrong verb tense
unc	unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph
wf	wrong grammatical form of word
ww	wrong word usage
¶	new paragraph needed