**HIS 454: China and the Outside World**
Dr. Jonathan Skaff

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**Book Review 1**

**Due: Wednesday, Feb. 17**
Electronic Copy due to Turnitin.com
Class ID: 3123804
Class password: skaff
Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached

**Length: 800 words** (approximately 3 double-spaced pages in 12 point font)

**Topic:**

Write a book review of *Ancient China and its Enemies* in a format suitable for publication in a scholarly journal, such as the *Journal of Asian Studies* or *American Historical Review*. This type of book review places more weight on the scholarly merits of a publication than its entertainment value. The intended audience of the review is professional historians and other scholars.

A good review should be concise and illuminating. The review should describe the author’s research methodology (think about the types of sources), summarize the author’s thesis and major arguments, and critique (positively or negatively) the author’s methodology, thesis, arguments or other aspects of the book. The primary function of a good book review is to evaluate how effectively the author defends his/her thesis.

**Evaluation of Papers:**
80% of the grade will be based on content. Content grades of A will be awarded to papers that effectively summarize and critique of the book’s methodology, thesis and arguments.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliographic citation of the book at the top of the first page in Chicago A format (4%).
Grading sheet (attach to paper)

I. Content (80%)

Summary of methodology, thesis and arguments:  __Excellent  __Good  __Fair  __Poor

Critique of methodology, thesis and arguments:  __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%)  _______

Bibliographic citation (Chicago A) (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