History 355: History of Modern China
Professor Jonathan Skaff

Paper Assignment 1

Due: Friday, October 1
- Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in .doc, .docx, or .rtf file format.

Length: 3 to 5 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Topic: Write a paper in which you critique the documentary film, *The Emperor's Eye: Art and Power in Industrial China*. The documentary is available for streaming through the Films on Demand database in the Lehman Library: SHIP PERMALINK.

The critique should summarize the content of the film with special attention to its portrayal of the Emperor Qianlong's role in collecting the works of art that presently fill the Palace Museums of Beijing, China and Taibei, Taiwan. The critique should evaluate the film's 1) *historical accuracy* depicting facts related to Qianlong's life and 2) *historical interpretation* of Qianlong's qualities as a ruler and art collector. The film's aesthetic or entertainment value should not be a major focus.

Your main sources for evaluating the film should be Mark Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong*, Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, and class lectures. Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS. Cite all sources in proper Chicago A or B format. Non-history majors may use MLA.

Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers with accurate summaries of the film and persuasive argumentation critiquing the *historical accuracy* and *historical interpretation* of the film. 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 (4%).

Grading sheet (attach to paper)

I. Content (80%)

Summary of film content: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Evaluation of film's historical accuracy depicting Qianlong: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Evaluation of film's historical interpretation of Qianlong: ___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