History 11B: History of China: 1000-2000
Song Politics & the Ascendency of Neo-Confucianism
Key Terms and Names 1/14

**Sui Dynasty** 唐: 581-617
**Tang Dynasty** 唐: 618-907
**Five Dynasties 五代 (and Ten Kingdoms 十国): 907-960**
  Five Dynasties in the north; Ten Kingdoms in the south
**Song Dynasty 宋: 960 – 1279**
  Northern Song 北宋: 960 - 1127 (capital at Kaifeng 開封)
  Southern Song 南宋: 1127 - 1279 (capital at Hangzhou 杭州)

**Liao Dynasty 遼: 907 – 1119**; hostile northern neighbor state of the Song; in 1005 the Liao sign a peace treaty with the Song.

**Xi Xia (Western Xia) Dynasty 西夏: 1038 – 1227**; a Chinese-style state established by the Tanguts (proto-Tibetan peoples living in the northwestern region of China); establish dynasty in the Gansu region; sign a peace treaty with the Song in 1044.

**Jin Dynasty 金: 1115 – 1234**; also known as the Jurchen peoples; hostile neighbor state located to the north and northeast of the Liao; Song aligns with the Jin to defeat the Liao, only to later lose the northern half of Song China to the Jin.

**Confucianism or the School of Classicism (the Ru-ists 儒家 or "weaklings/scholars")**
Confucius [Kongzi 孔子] (551-479 BCE)
Mencius [Mengzi 孟子] (372-289 BCE)

junzi/chün-tzu 君子 – gentleman or superior man

*The Analects (Lunyu 論語), collected sayings of Confucius
The Mencius (Mengzi 孟子), collected writings of Mencius

The Four Books: *The Analects, The Mencius, The Great Learning (Daxue 大學), and The Doctrine of the Mean (Zhongyong 中庸).* The last two of these are based on chapters taken from the *Book of Rites (Li Ji/Li Chi 禮記)*, and were compiled ca. 100 BCE. Together, the Four Books (*sishu 四書*), along with the Five Classics (*wujing 五經*), become the basic canon of Confucian thought and learning. In later imperial times these are the texts used to study for the imperial civil service examinations.
Neo-Confucian philosophy, known in Chinese as "lijue  理學 (or the "Study of Principle") or 道學 "daoxue" (the "Study of the Way")

*Li* 理 - principle, the natural patterns occurring in all things.

*Qi* 氣 - the vital energy, ether, force or material substance that makes up the things of this world.

"The investigation of things" (*gewu* 格物); the path to self-cultivation according to Zhu Xi's formulation was via the study of the patterns or principles in all things, and this entailed "the investigation of things."

Zhou Dunyi 周敦頤 (1017-1073), the first in a line of Confucian revivalists in the Northern Song; appropriates Daoist metaphysical concepts to the Confucian project of social and ethical concerns.

Zhang Zai 張載 (1020-1077), a key formulator of neo-Confucian cosmology and ethical precepts; uncle to the Cheng brothers (see below) and the teacher of Sima Guang (see sheet for lecture 5.1).

Cheng Hao 程颢 (1031-1085) and **Cheng Yi 程頲** (1032-1107); brothers; two of the most influential neo-Confucian thinkers of the Northern Song.

**Zhu Xi** 朱熹 (1130-1200); the most influential neo-Confucian philosopher; synthesizes the metaphysical theories of the Northern Song Confucian thinkers; writes commentaries for the Four Books, which later become the basic texts of study for the examination system.

*Family Rituals* (*Jia li* 家禮), an instruction manual on how to conduct key life ceremonies compiled by Zhu Xi.