Paper Topic
Due in class Friday, February 19, 2016

The sixteenth-century Ming dynasty novel Monkey describes travels through imagined peoples and lands on the margins of China. The eighteenth-century “Miao Album” (translated in The Art of Ethnography) depicts peoples situated on the peripheries of the Qing Empire. Compare the representations of “others” (that is, either peoples of foreign lands or non-Han peoples within the territory of Qing China) in these two works. What do these “others” symbolize within the literary or artistic work? How might they reflect an understanding of what it means to be “Chinese”? What, if anything, has changed from the Ming to the Qing dynasty that might account for the different representations of “others” in these two works? (To address this topic, it is suggested that you focus on one or two examples from each work.)

The essay should have a clear thesis. The essay should have a title that reflects the thesis of your paper. You should draw upon the primary and secondary sources read for this course to complete this assignment; if you quote or paraphrase from a book or source, you must give proper attribution. Failure to provide proper attribution for sources constitutes plagiarism. There is no need to turn to outside readings to complete this assignment. Do not use Wikipedia as a source, even if you give proper attribution. Feel free to stop by office hours to talk about your essay.

The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and approximately 5 pages in length. Please number the pages and use a staple or paper clip to fasten the pages of the essay together. Please remember to put your name and section number on the title page.

You will be asked to submit the paper through Turnitin and bring a hard copy of the paper to class on Friday, February 19.