History 11B: History of China: 1000-2000  
Song Politics & the Ascendency of Neo-Confucianism  
Key Terms and Names 1/17

Sui Dynasty: 581-617  
Tang Dynasty: 618-907  
Five Dynasties (and Ten Kingdoms): 907 - 960  
Five Dynasties in the north; Ten Kingdoms in the south  
Song Dynasty: 960 – 1279  
Northern Song: 960 - 1127 (capital at Kaifeng)  
Southern Song: 1127 - 1279 (capital at Hangzhou)

Liao Dynasty: 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: 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: 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 or "weaklings/scholars")
Confucius [Kongzi] (551-479 BCE)  
Mencius [Mengzi] (372-289 BCE)

junzi/chün-tzu – gentleman or superior man

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

The Four Books: The Analects, The Mencius, The Great Learning (Daxue), and The Doctrine of the Mean (Zhongyong). The last two of these are based on chapters taken from the Book of Rites (Li Ji/Li Chi), and were compiled ca. 100 BCE. Together, the Four Books (sishu), along with the Five Classics (wujing), 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 "lixue" (or the "Study of Principle") or "daoxue" (the "Study of the Way")

Li - principle, the natural patterns occurring in all things.  
Qi - the vital energy, ether, force or material substance that makes up the things of this world.
"The investigation of things" (gewu); 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 (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 (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 (1031-1085) and Cheng Yi (1032-1107); brothers; two of the most influential neo-Confucian thinkers of the Northern Song.

Zhu Xi (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), an instruction manual on how to conduct key life ceremonies compiled by Zhu Xi.