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

**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 (*wuji*), 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.