A. Goldman

First Paper Topic
Due in class Monday, February 4 at 10:00 am

Based on your reading in Jacques Gernet’s Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion, 1250-1276 (and at least one other primary source assigned for weeks one to three of the course), analyze the extent to which the state penetrated social life in the 12th and 13th centuries. In what ways did the state make its presence manifest in daily life? Were there facets of urban or rural experience that the state did or could not penetrate? If so, what other institutions, organizations, or associations helped to regulate or organize urban or rural life? Did these other institutions act as an extension of state power or did they come into conflict with state power? Explain.

The paper should have a clear thesis. Give your paper a title that alerts the reader to your thesis. You must draw upon the primary and secondary sources read for this course to complete this assignment (readings for weeks 1-3); if you quote or paraphrase from a book or source, you must give proper attribution. Failure to provide proper attribution for sources constitutes plagiarism. You are strongly discouraged from turning to outside readings for this paper. Do not rely on Wikipedia for the essay, even if you give proper attribution!! Feel free to stop by TA and professor office hours to talk about your paper.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and approximately 5-7 pages in length. Please number the pages and use a staple or paper clip to fasten the pages of the paper together.

You will be asked to submit the paper through Turnitin via the course website, in addition to submitted a paper copy on 2/4.