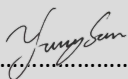


Postgraduate Assignment coversheet & feedback form

THIS SHEET MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ASSIGNMENT YOU ARE SUBMITTING
(DO NOT SEND AS A SEPARATE FILE)

For completion by the student:		
Student Name: Yuang Sun		
Module code: SICH 7023 Module title: Research Methodology for the Study of Sinology	Student ID number: 1804386	Educational support needs: No
Module tutor: Prof Zhang Gaoping Assignment due date: 03/04/2025		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☒ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☐ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐		
Word count: 1943		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed 		
Email submission: if you are submitting this form via email, please tick this box ☐ (as a substitute for your signature) to confirm that you agree to the above declaration.		

Assignment Mark	
1st Marker's Provisional mark	
2nd Marker's/Moderator's provisional mark	
Agreed Internal Mark:	
External Examiner's mark (if relevant)	
Final Mark	
NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the Final Examination Board.	

For completion by Marker 1:

Comments:

Marker's signature:

Date:

For completion by Marker 2/Moderator:

Comments:

Marker's Signature:

Date:

AGREED INTERNAL MARK (where necessary):

Comment on process on arriving at agreed mark:

External Examiner's comments (if relevant)

External Examiner's Signature:

Date:

AI Acknowledgement

☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

☒ I have used AI in my assignment

I acknowledge the use of [DeepL] [(<https://www.deepl.com/zh/translator>)] on [04/11/2024] to [Purpose my work: (proofread material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

1. Proofread for incorrect grammar and vocabulary.

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

SICH 7023 Professor Zhang's paper research and discussion.

《史記》忌諱敘事與《春秋》書法——以征伐匈奴之相關人事為例”

Taboo Narratives in *Shiji* and the *Chunqiu* Technique: A Case Study of Personnel Affairs in the Campaigns Against the Xiongnu



Name: Yuang Sun



TIME: 2025.4.3

CONTENTS

I. Introduction: Research Background and Significance

**II. Theoretical Framework : The Fusion of Chunqiu
Techniques and Shiji Narratives**

III. Case Studies: Four Layers of Taboo Narratives

IV. Conclusion & Comments



1

Introduction: Research
Background and
Significance



Research Focus:

- Sima Qian's use of Chunqiu techniques to critique Emperor Wu's Xiongnu campaigns.
- Balancing truthful recording with political sensitivity.

Key Context:

- 54- year military campaigns led to social and economic crisis.
- Sima Qian's dilemmatruth vs. imperial authority.

Significance:

- Reveals Shiji's inheritance of Chunqiu methods.
 - Highlights "taboo narratives" in Chinese historiography.
- 



Theoretical Framework:



筆削見義 (Revealing Meaning Through Selective Writing)

01

Cross-referencing

- 互見法: Highlight omissions in one chapter via another.
- Example: 《平準書》 lists economic policies but ends with Qin's collapse → indirect criticism of Emperor Wu.

02

Balanced Details

- 詳略互補: Selective emphasis to imply critique.
- Example: Detailed accounts of minor officials' virtues juxtaposed with vague descriptions of Emperor Wu's policies.





屬辭比事 (Arranging Phrases & Comparing Events)

Sequencing

Imply causality (e.g., placing Li Guang's biography before Xiongnu treatise).

Example: 《匈奴列傳》 juxtaposes Han victories with losses → questions war's futility.



Rhetorical Tension

Phrases like "擇任將相" mask critiques of poor leadership.

Example: Subtle word choices in 《平準書》 hint at economic mismanagement.



SICH 7023

3

Case Studies Four Layers of
Taboo Narratives



《平準書》: Economic Accusations Through “據事直書” (Straightforward Recording)



Data Documentation

Records of massive warhorse losses (e.g., 110k warhorses lost).

Example: Detailed accounts of economic strain due to prolonged campaigns.



Historical Allusion

Qin's collapse as a warning.

Example: Comparing Emperor Wu's policies to those of the fallen Qin dynasty.



Silent Criticism

No direct naming of Emperor Wu.

Example: Indirect references to failed policies without explicit blame.



《李將軍列傳》：Institutional Critique Under “天命敘事” (Narratives of Destiny)



Contrast of Talents

- Li Guang's exceptional skills vs. Li Cai's mediocrity.
- Example: Highlighting Li Guang's strategic brilliance juxtaposed with Li Cai's incompetence.



Blame Shift

- Blame shifted to "fate" (數奇) to critique imperial bias.
- Example: Suggesting that Li Guang's lack of recognition was due to systemic issues.





《匈奴列傳》: Structural Critique of War



Sequence of Peace vs. War

- **Peace under Emperors Wen and Jing vs. war under Emperor Wu.**
- **Example: Contrasting the prosperous reigns of Wen and Jing with the chaotic era of Wu.**



Exposing Futility

- **Listing victories alongside losses.**
- **Example: Detailed accounts of both successes and failures in the Xiongnu campaigns.**



《衛將軍驃騎列傳》：Deconstructing Merit Through “名實參互” (Juxtaposing Name and Reality)

Superficial Praise

- **Praise for Wei Qing and Huo Qubing.**
- **Example: Highlighting their achievements while hinting at underlying issues.**

Undermining Achievements

- **Inflated reports and neglect of soldiers.**
- **Example: Questioning the true value of their victories through subtle critiques.**

4

Conclusion &
Comments

Key Findings

01

Shiji blends Chunqiu techniques
to balance truth and political
restraint.

02

Strategies like 曲筆諱書 (bent-
brush concealment) reveal
layered critiques.

SICH 7023 Professor Zhang's paper research and discussion.

Thank you for your listening



Name : Yuang Sun



TIME: 2025.4.3