

History 4813: History of China to 1644

Dr. Liang Cai
History Department
Fall 2009

Office: Old Main 507

Class Meeting time and location: TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM, SCEN 0407

Office Hours: TuTh 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment

Phone: 479-575-7596

Email: liangc@uark.edu

Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to Chinese history and culture, beginning with the archaeological record and extending over the dynastic period and into early 17th century. Providing a chronological overview of development of the Chinese civilization, this course will focus on a few themes and a few approaches. We pose several questions, such as: what forces came together to produce Chinese civilization, and how did those forces adhere or grow apart, persist or perish, over time? How can literature from the past reveal details of the way people lived, of the values and ideas that captivated people's attention, and of the way important historical forces were played out in people's lives? Finally, when first encountering the West in modern times, China underwent economic, military, and cultural crises. How did their leaders and subjects respond to those challenges and how did their perceptions of modernity shape the way they treated their cultural heritage, engaged the present, and envisioned their future?

Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Familiarize ourselves with some basic knowledge of Chinese History.
(Knowledge _ In-class Exams)
2. Gain insight of Traditional Chinese Society through analyzing the primary sources (Analytical Skill _ Take-Home Exam Essays of Primary Source Analysis)
3. Critically examine how historical knowledge of China was produced by historians (Critical Thinking Ability _ Book Review)

COURSE PARTICULARS

Textbooks:

Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600*, New York & London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.

Patricia Buckley Ebrey (editor), *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 2nd ed, New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Web content: [HTTP://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/](http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/)

Suggested textbooks:

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden (Editors), *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, Hackett Publishing Company, 2006.

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, Boston: Bedford, 2004.

Lecture and Discussion:

Classes will be combinations of lectures and mini-discussions. You are responsible to finish the assigned reading before you come to class, take thorough lecture notes, and actively participate in class discussions.

Quizzes, Primary Source Analysis, and Book Review (A Research Paper):

There will be two in-class quizzes. Each counts for 15% of the total grade. They will take up roughly 30 minutes of class on those days. Quizzes are likely to focus on geography, periodization, and identification (e.g., major figures, schools, events).

Focusing on Ebrey's book, there are two Take-Home Exam Essays of Primary Source Analysis. Each counts for 15% of the total grade. To prepare you for the exam essays, each Friday a few brief questions will be posted on the Blackboard pertaining to the coming week's reading. You are expected to take an active role in the sharing and exchanging of ideas in class that you gain from your reading.

Makeup quizzes and exams are likely to be different in content, format, and degree of difficulty.

There will be a list of book titles handed out at the first week of the semester. Choose a book and write a 10 to 15 page long book review according to the

instruction. This counts for 40% of the final score. The book review is due **on Nov. 24th in class**.

You can also choose to write a research paper of your own topic. To write a research paper, you should

- 1) Come to the instructor to discuss what topic you are going to choose before the end of fourth week. This counts for 5% of the score;
- 2) Compile a one-page bibliography and hand it to the instructor before the end of the sixth week. This counts for 10% of the score;
- 3) Write a proposal (one to two pages long) before the end of eleventh week, This counts for 15% of the score;
- 4) Finish a 10-15 page-long research paper before the semester ends. That is the research paper is due **on Nov. 24th in class**. This counts for 70% of the score.

Late papers will be penalized a full letter grade for each day late.

NOTE CONCERNING PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: All academic work must meet the standards contained in *Academic Regulations*. Each Student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The policy is available at: <http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/rlee/honesty.html>. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the university's official process for adjudicating such complaints. Anyone found guilty will receive an "F" for the course at minimum.

Inclement weather policy:

If Fayetteville Public Schools cancel class due to bad weather, this class will not meet.

Contacting the Instructor:

Blackboard and E-mail: Blackboard and Email are integral parts of this course and will be used frequently as a means of communication between the instructor and students. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have access to both Blackboard and your Uark email account.

Further notes:

Students with disabilities should contact the [Center for Educational Access](#) to find out about their rights and their obligations. I will make all accommodations required by the office to facilitate a student's experience in the course.

Grading:

30% Quizzes

30% Exam Essays of Primary Source Analysis

40% Book Review

I cannot play “email tag” or “telephone tag” on grade questions. Such inquiries will not be answered because our privacy cannot be assured.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the schedule and/or change the syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class (they may not appear on the website) and are the responsibility of the student.

Week 1 **Origins of Chinese Civilization: Mythology and Archaeology**
Aug 25/27 Hansen, Introduction
ELECTRONIC RESERVE #1: Selections from *Book of Documents*:
Canon of Yao and Canon of Shun

Week 2 **Shang Dynasty and Chinese Writing System**
Sept 01/03 Hansen, 17-40
Ebrey, item 1

Week 3 **Western Zhou Dynasty: Fountainhead of Chinese Culture?**
Sept 08/10 Hansen, 40-54.
Ebrey, items 2 ELECTRONIC RESERVE #2: Zhou Bronze
Inscription

Week 4 **Spring and Autumn Period: Transformation during Chaotic Time**
Sept 15/17 Ebrey, items 4, 5, &9

Week 5 **Warring States Era: the Hundred Schools of Thought I**
Sept 22/24 Hansen, 55 -78
Ebrey, items 6, 10, &15
QUIZ #1: Tuesday, Sept 24 in class
Take Home Exam #1 is handed out on Sept 24 in Class

- Week 6**
Sept 29
Oct 01
Warring States Era: the Hundred Schools of Thought II
Hansen, 79-95
Take Home Exam #1 is due on Sept 29 in class.
Ebrey, items 7, 8
- Week 7**
Oct 06/08
Creation of Empire: the Qin and Han Dynasties
Hansen, Chapter 3.
Ebrey, items 11-14.
- Week 8**
Oct 13/15
Gender, Family, and Childhood in Early China
Pursuing Immortality: Popular Religion before the Arrival of Buddhism
ELECTRONIC RESERVE
Jstor.com: Bret Hinsch, "The Origins of Separation of the Sexes in China," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 123, No. 3 (Jul. - Sep., 2003), pp. 595-616.
Jstor.com: Ying-shih Yü, "'O Soul, Come Back!' A Study in the Changing Conceptions of the Soul and Afterlife in Pre-Buddhist China," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 47:2 (1987): pp. 363-395.
Ebrey, items 16-17, 18-21
- Week 9**
Conflicts
Oct 20/22
China during Disunity: Buddhist Doctrines and Cultural
Hansen, Chapter 4.
Ebrey, items 22-24.
- Week 10**
Oct 27/29
Return of Empire: the Sui Dynasty
Hansen, Chapter 5.
Ebrey, items 25-27
- Week 11**
Nov 03/05
Cosmopolitan Civilization of the Tang Dynasty
Hansen, Chapter 6.
Ebrey, items 28, 29, 31.
- Week 12**
Nov 10/12
Song Dynasty and Its Enemies
Hansen, Chapter 7
Ebrey, items 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.
- Week 13**
Civil Service Examination System and Late Imperial Institutions

Nov17/19 Hansen, Chapter 8
Ebrey, items 39-43

Week 14 Mongol Empire and Yuan Dynasty
Nov 24 Hansen, Chapter 9.
Ebrey, items 44-46.
Book Review is due on Nov 24th in class

Thanksgiving

Week 15 Ming Dynasty
Dec 01/03 Hansen, Chapter 10.
Ebrey, 55-58.
QUIZ #2: Thursday, Dec 03rd in class
Take Home Exam #2 is handed out on Thursday Dec 03rd in Class

Week 16 Questions and Answers
Dec 08 **Take Home Exam #2 is due on Dec 08th in Class**