



## Graduate Course Syllabus

### HIS 640: Chinese Imperialism

Center: Online

#### Course Prerequisites

HIS 501 and HIS 502

#### Course Description

This course provides an overview of major military campaigns, strategies, and tactics in Chinese history. Students will explore the cultural aspects of military campaigns and warfare in China and be introduced to the latest scholarship on the topics explored. Students will also engage with the historiography of a topic of interest and define their own interpretations based on scholarly research.

#### Course Outcomes

- Analyze the relationship between theory and practice in Chinese warfare for its effects on the political, cultural, and economic facets of Chinese society
- Critique the existing body of scholarship for its strengths and shortcomings relative to historical interpretations of Chinese imperial expansion and military action
- Evaluate the impact of ruling governments' use of pacifist Confucian-derived rhetoric to project the image of an idealized defensive state
- Compare and contrast regional perceptions of Chinese imperialism throughout history in order to challenge dominant narratives
- Compare and contrast different models of Chinese strategic culture as they pertain to the pursuit of political and military goals for informing future strategic behavior
- Analyze Chinese Imperialist actions for their historical role in creating and expanding Chinese states

#### Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

*Dragon's Head & a Serpent's Tail: Ming China & the First Great East Asian War, 1592–1598*

Kenneth M. Swope

University of Oklahoma Press

2009

ISBN: 978-0-8061-5581-4

*Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937–1945*

Rana Mitter  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
First Edition  
2013  
ISBN: 978-0-544-33450-2

*Mao's China and the Cold War*

Chen Jian  
The University of North Carolina Press  
2001  
ISBN: 978-0-8078-9890-1

*Military Culture in Imperial China*

Nicola Di Cosmo, ed.  
Harvard University Press  
2011  
ISBN: 978-0-674-06072-2

*The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China*

Ralph D. Sawyer  
Basic Books, Inc.  
1993, 2007  
ISBN: 978-0-465-00304-4

*The Culture of War in China: Empire & the Military Under the Qing Dynasty*

Joanna Waley-Cohen  
I.B. Tauris  
2006  
ISBN: 978-1-7807-6668-3

This resource can be accessed for free as an eBook through the Shapiro Library. Click [here](#) to access the resource.

*The Dao of the Military: Liu An's Art of War*

Andrew Seth Meyer  
Columbia University Press  
2012  
ISBN: 978-0-2311-5333-1

This resource can be accessed for free as an eBook through the Shapiro Library. Click [here](#) to access the resource.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU's curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

### **Instructor Availability and Response Time**

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment's due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

### **Grade Distribution**

<b>Assignment Category</b>	<b>Number of Graded Items</b>	<b>Point Value per Item</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Discussions	10	18	180
Group Discussions	2	30	60
Short Papers	3	25	75
Group Activity: Peer Review	1	50	50
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	20	20
Milestone Two	1	30	30
Milestone Three	1	100	100
Milestone Four	1	135	135
Final Submission	1	350	350
			<b>Total Course Points: 1,000</b>

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

### **University Grading System: Graduate**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>	<b>Points</b>
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

\* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

### Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Is There a Chinese Art of War? <i>The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China</i> , Chapters 1–5 <i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i> , Introduction (pp. 1–22) 1-1 Discussion: What is the Chinese Art of War? 1-2 Final Project Milestone One: Working Paper Topic
2	The Philosophy of War in Early China <i>The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China</i> , Chapters 6–7 <i>The Dao of the Military: Liu An's Art of War</i> , Entire book 2-1 Discussion: China's "Strategic Culture" 2-2 Short Paper: Key Tenets of the Ancient Military Classics
3	Fashioning an Empire <i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i> , Chapters 1–5 3-1 Discussion: Organization and Motivation of Armies 3-2 Group Discussion: How Did Early Empires View Themselves? 3-3 Final Project Milestone Two: Topic Submission
4	Preserving and Extending Military Traditions <i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i> , Chapters 6–8 4-1 Discussion: Balance of Power 4-2 Short Paper: Steppe Culture Absorption 4-3 Group Activity: Mongol Dynasty in Chinese History

Module	Topics and Assignments
5	<p>The Tributary System and Regional Conflicts</p> <p><i>Dragon's Head &amp; a Serpent's Tail: Ming China &amp; the First Great East Asian War</i>, Entire book</p> <p><i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>5-1 Discussion: Implications of Memories</p> <p>5-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Annotated Bibliography</p>
6	<p>A New Culture of War?</p> <p><i>Culture of War in China</i>, Entire book</p> <p><i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i>, Chapters 10-13</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: New Dimensions to Chinese Warfare</p> <p>6-2 Short Paper: Assess the Larger Significance of Qing Conquests</p> <p>6-3 Group Discussion: Share your Research (non-graded)</p>
7	<p>The Closing of the Steppe &amp; Imperialism</p> <p><i>Military Culture in Imperial China</i>, Chapter 14</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Closing of the Steppe</p> <p>7-2 Final Project Milestone Four: Rough Draft</p>
8	<p>Into the Twentieth Century</p> <p><i>Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937–1945</i>, Entire book</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: War and the Rise of the Communist Party</p> <p>8-2 Group Activity: Peer Review</p>
9	<p>New Imperialism or Maintaining Traditions?</p> <p><i>Mao's China and the Cold War</i>, Entire book</p> <p>9-1 Discussion: To Present Day</p> <p>9-2 Submission: Historiographical Final Paper</p>
10	<p>Reflecting on the Historian's Journey</p> <p>10-1 Discussion: Evolution of the Professional Historian</p>

### Course Participation

Course participation is required within the first week of the term for all online courses. *Participation* in this context is defined as completing one graded assignment during the first week of the course. Otherwise, students will be administratively removed for nonparticipation. Students who do not participate during the first week may forfeit their rights to be reinstated into the course. Students who stop attending a course after the first week and who do not officially withdraw will receive a grade calculated based on all submitted and missed graded assignments for the course. Missed assignments will earn a grade of zero. See the [course withdrawal policy](#) and the [full attendance policy](#) for further information.

### Late Assignments

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

- A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.

- Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Students must submit all assignments no later than 11:59 p.m. (in their own time zone) on the last day of the term. No assignments are accepted after the last day of the term unless an incomplete has been submitted. See the [incomplete grades policy](#).

There may be times an instructor makes an exception to the late assignment policy. Instructors may accept late work, including discussion board posts, with or without prior arrangement.

- Exceptions to the late policy on these grounds are left to the instructor's discretion, including whether the late penalty is applied or waived. Students should not assume that they will be allowed to submit assignments after the due dates.
- If an instructor finds that they are unable to determine whether an exception to the late policy would be appropriate without documentation, the collection and review of student documentation should be handled through the Dispute Resolution team in order to protect the student's privacy. In these cases, students should file a [Student Concern Dispute form](#) to have the circumstances reviewed.

If a student is experiencing (or knows they will experience) a circumstance, including pregnancy, that is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Title IX, they are encouraged to contact the [Online Accessibility Center \(OAC\)](#) as soon as possible to explore what academic accommodations might be offered. Instructors must honor all deadlines established through the OAC.

### **Student Handbook**

Review the [student handbook](#).

### **ADA/504 Compliance Statement**

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted the [ADA/504 Grievances Policy](#) (version 1.2 effective October 16, 2017), providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504 or the ADA.

For further information on accessibility support and services, visit the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) webpage.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

**Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

**Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).