Syllabus for **CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

Course Number 60610082-0

Fall 2020, Tsinghua University

Tuesdays 13:30-15:05 GMT+8, Room 6A213

**INSTRUCOR**

YUAN Xianxin 袁先欣 (in charge of Week 1, 9-15)

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GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. FENG Naixi冯乃希 (in charge of Week 8)

Post-doctoral fellow, Tsinghua Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Science

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a thematic introduction to Chinese culture and society. Students will be exposed both to translations of primary sources and to secondary scholarship. The course does not intend to provide a comprehensive overview of Chinese culture. Rather, it aims at offering an analytical sketch of some of the key traditions, features and issues of Chinese culture and society.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through successful completion of this course, students will gain a familiarity with:

* Historical traditions and modern developments of Chinese culture and society;
* Some of the key features of Chinese culture and society;
* Some of the major sources and representative scholarship in the study of Chinese culture and society;
* Critical reading skills, by learning how to understand and evaluate both historical sources and modern scholarly debates.

**TEACHING METHOD**

Week 1 (first class): Lecture (no preparation needed)

Week 2-15: Seminar (discussion as much as possible)

Week 16: Writing workshop (voluntary participation; students with problems over final paper writing as well as any other questions during the whole course may come to the class and consult with the instructor)

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that most students registered in this course may not be able to physically come to the classroom. In this sense, we will conduct this course in a hybrid interactive teaching method. Students who stay on campus are required to show up at classroom every week while at the same time online class access will be provided for students who currently locate outside mainland China. **Please pay attention to the Online Courses schedule on WebLearning**.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

* **Attendance: 20%**

Students should attend all classes from Week 1 to 15, and should come to class having carefully read all required readings for that day. The attendance of Week 16 is voluntary.

*For students who stay on campus*—the attendance will be recorded every week by **Sign-up Sheet** at the classroom.

*For students who are currently outside mainland China*—your **online attendance** will be recorded by TAs.

*\*If you do have problems to attend classes at China standard time*—please contact TAs with clear explanation. With instructors’ approval, you may learn through the replay at RainClassroom. You are also required to send a **summary (no less than 250 words)** of the content taught at classes every week to TAs. Written summaries will be collected as your **record of attendance**.

When asking for leave during Week 1-15, please write to TAs BEFORE the class take place and please explain your reason for absence. **Each student is only allowed to** **ask for leave no more than 3 times**. If you ask for 4 times, 10% of points will be deducted from your final grade. Being absent without notification can result in a lower or even failing grade for the course.

The students are encouraged to speak and interact in class (both in classroom and online) as much as possible.

* **Presentation or Reading Report: 30%**

Student can choose either to give a presentation OR to write an academic book review.

*If you choose presentation*:

In each class (except for Week 1, 8, and 15) there would be two students to give presentation introducing and commenting on (one of) the required readings. The presenters are encouraged to consult the whole book (in case of monograph chapters) and other required and recommended readings. The time for each oral presentation is 15-20 minutes, following with Q & A session (unlimited time).

Please **register with TAs** at the end of the first class for presentation. The rule is first come, first served.

*Other students*:

Please choose one of all assigned readings (see below “Weekly Schedule”) to write an academic book review (**NOTE: Once the reading piece you choose to write about is less than 30 pages, you should include one more piece from the same topic in your review**). The required word count of the book review is **no less than 1500 words**. Please submit it to “Works” on Tsinghua Web Learning **before November 17**. Students are always encouraged to refer to other readings assigned in this course in their book reviews.

For those who have problems in writing academic book review in Arts and Humanities, please check: <http://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=235208&p=1560694>

* **Final Paper: 50%**

Please choose one of the topics discussed in this course to write your final paper. The require word count is **more than** **3000 words** (excluding bibliography). Please follow **MLA format** in your final paper writing. Please submit it to “Works” on Tsinghua Web Learning **before January 4, 2020**.

For those who have problems in developing a specific topic for final paper, please check: <http://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=235208&p=1560695>

For those who are unclear about MLA format, please check:

<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html>

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Note: All reading material can be downloaded from “Course Documents” on Tsinghua WebLearning** [**http://learn.tsinghua.edu.cn**](http://learn.tsinghua.edu.cn)**. TAs will upload reading material timely before each class.**

**Week 1 (September 15)**

**Introduction: The Question of Chinese Culture**

**Recommended Reading:**

1. Arif Dirlik, “Timespace, Social Space and the Question of Chinese Culture”, *Monumenta Serica* Vol. 54 (2006), pp. 417-433.
2. Patricia B. Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

**Week 2 (September 22)**

**Topic 1: Who is Confucius?**

**Required Reading**

1. John Wills, *The Mountain of Fame*, chapter 2 “Confucius (Kongzi)”.
2. Theodore de Bary (ed), *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1: Confucius and the Analects (pp. 41-63).

**Recommended Readings:**

1. Patricia Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 1.
2. William G. Boltz, "Language and Writing," in *The Cambridge History of Ancient China*, pp. 74-123. (Particularly pp. 74-77, 80-81, 83-91, 106-123).
3. Keightley, David, "Early Civilization in China: Reflections on How It Became Chinese," in *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization*, edited by Paul Ropp. (c) 1990 by the Regents of the University of California. Published by the University of California Press. pp. 15-54.
4. Tu Wei-ming, "The Confucian Tradition in Chinese History", in Ropp, Paul S., ed. *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization* (U. Cal. / Berkeley, 1990).

**Week 3 (September 29)**

**Topic 2: Warring States Philosophy: Besides Confucius**

**Required Reading**

1. ***SCT***:

Mohist Teachings: Mozi: pp. 69-72, 75-76;

Daoist Teachings: Laozi: pp. 77-83 (#1-12); Zhuangzi: pp. 95-98, 111.

Confucian Teachings: Mencius: pp. 116-117 (#1A: 1); Xunzi: pp. 161-164; pp. 174-83.

2. Li Feng, *Early China*: *A Social and Cultural History*, chapter 10, “Philosophers as statesmen: in the light of recently discovered texts,” (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), 206-227.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 2, particularly 42-45 and 77-79

2. *Lives of Confucius*, Chapter 2 (“Kongzi and His Critics”)

3. Nylan, “Introduction,” *The Five Confucian Classics*.

4. Steve Coutinho, *An Introduction to Daoist Philosophies* (Columbia, 2014).

**Week 4 (October 6)**

**Topic 3 The Early Empire 1: Institutions, Ideology and Ritual Practice in the Qin and the Han**

**Required Reading:**

Qin

1. Li Feng, *Early China*, chapter 11, “The Qin Unification and Qin Empire: who were the terracotta warriors?” pp. 228-255

Han

2. Cheng, Anne. “What Did It Mean to be a *Ru* in Han Times?”, *Asia Major* 3rd series, vol. 14, part 2 (2001): 101-118.

**Recommended Readings**

1. Legalist Teachings: ***SCT***: The Han Feizi; (199-205);

2. Martin Kern, “Ritual, Text, and the Formation of the Canon: Historical Transitions of ‘Wen’ in Early China,” *T'oung Pao Second Series*, Vol. 87, Fasc. 1/3 (2001), pp. 43-91.

3. Bryan W. Van Norden, *Virtue Ethics and Consequentialism in Early Chinese Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2007).

4. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 3.

**Week 5 (October 13)**

**Topic 4: The Early Empire 2: Art and Politics in the Han**

**Required Reading:**

1. Li Feng, *Early China*, chapter 14 , “Ideological changes and their reflections in Han culture and Han art,” pp. 303-323.

3. Martin Powers, *Art and Political Expression in Early China,* chapter 6, “Classical themes as arguments,” New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991, pp. 188-205.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. Michael Nylan, “Yin–yang, Five Phases, and qi,” in *China’s Early Enterprises: A Re-appraisal*. Cambridge University press, 2010. 398-414.

2. John Wills, *The Mountain of Fame*, Chapters 4-6 on Sima Qian, Wang Mang and Ban Zhao, pp. 51-99.

3***. SCT***: Debate on Salt and Iron (pp. 360-363).

**Week 6 (October 20)**

**Topic 5 The Tang Dynasty: China’s Cosmopolitan Empire**

**Required Reading**

1. John Wills, *The Mountain of Fame*, chapter 8 “Hui Neng, The Sixth Patriarch”, pp. 114-126.
2. John Wills, *The Mountain of Fame*, chapter 9 “Empress Wu”, pp. 127-148.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. Mark Lewis, *China’s Cosmopolitan Empire*
2. Edward Schafer, *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand*
3. Norman Rothschild, *Wu Zhao*
4. Chen, Jack. 2005. “The Writing of Imperial Poetry in Medieval China.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*. 65.1:57-98.
5. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapters 4-5.

**Week 7 (October 27)**

**Topic 6: Cultural and Political Pursuits in The Song Dynasty**

**Required Reading:**

1. John Wills, *The Mountain of Fame*, chapter 10 “Su Dongpo”, pp. 149-167.
2. Peter Bol, *Neo-Confucianism in History*, chapter 2 “Searching for a New Foundation in the Eleventh Century”, pp. 43-77.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 6
2. Harold Tanner, *China: A History*, Volume 1 (2009), pp. 201-238;
3. “The Song Dynasty in China” [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/song/]

**Week 8 (November 3)**

**Topic 7: Society and Empire in Late Imperial China**

**Required Readings:**

1. Timothy Brook, *The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties*, Chapter 2 “Scale,” pp. 24-49.
2. William T. Rowe, China’s Late Empire: The Great Qing, Introduction and Chapters 2-3 “Governance” and “High Qing,” pp. 1-10, 31-89.

**Recommended Readings:**

1. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapters 8-9, pp. 190-261.
2. Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*, Chapter 3 “Summer: The Last Century (1550-1644)”.
3. Willard Peterson, “Learning from Heaven: The Introduction of Christianity and other Western Ideas into late Ming China,” *The Cambridge History of China, volume 8, The Ming Dynasty 1368-1644*, Part 2, pp. 789-839.
4. Pamela Crossley, “Conquest Elite of the Ch’ing Empire,” *The Cambridge History of China, volume 9, The Ch’ing Dynasty to 1800*, pp. 310-359.
5. Benjamin Elman, “The Social Role of Literati in Early to Mid-Ch’ing,” *The Cambridge History of China, volume 9, The Ch’ing Dynasty to 1800*, pp. 360-427.

**Week 9 (November 10)**

**Topic 8: From Empire to Nation-State**

**Required reading:**

1. Wang Hui, *China from Empire to Nation-State*, Michael G. Hill tran., Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014, Chapter 1 and 2, pp. 3-60.

**Recommended readings:**

1. Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997, Part One, pp. 3-82.
2. Rebecca E. Karl, *Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2002, Chapter 1 and 2, pp. 3-49.

**Week 10 (November 17)**

**Topic 9: May Fourth and Script Reform**

**Required reading:**

1. Benjamin I. Schwartz, “Themes in intellectual history: May Fourth and after”, in John Fairbank ed., *The Cambridge History of China, Vol. 12, Republican China 1912-1949, Part 1*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983, pp. 406-450.
2. Yurou Zhong, *Chinese Grammatology*, Intro.

**Recommended readings:**

1. Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
2. Wang Hui, “The Transformation of Culture and Politics”, *China’s Twentieth Century Revolution, Retreat and the Road to Equality*, Saul Thomas ed., London: Verso, 2016, p. 41-109.
3. John De Francis, *Nationalism and Language Reform in China*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950, Chapter 1, 13-15, pp. 3-13, 211-254.

**Week 11 (November 24)**

**Topic 10: Rural, Colonial, and the Probability of Revolution**

**Required reading:**

1. Lu Xun, “Ah Q—The Real Story”, in *Diary of a Madman and Other Stories*, William Lyell tran., US: University of Hawaii Press, 1990, pp. 101-172.

**Recommended readings:**

1. Lydia H. Liu, *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity—China, 1900-1937*, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1995, Chapter 2 “Translating National Character: Lu Xun and Arthur Smith”, pp. 45-76.
2. Mao Tse-tung, “Report on An Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan”, *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, Volume 1, Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1965, pp. 23-59.
3. Mao Tse-tung, “On New Democracy”, *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, Volume 2, Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1965, pp. 339-384.

**Week 12 (December 1)**

**Topic 11: Ethnicity and Nationalities**

**Required reading:**

1. Fei Xiaotong, “Diversity Within Integration”, *Globalization and Cultural Self-Awareness*, Heidelberg: Springer, 2015, pp. 77-108.
2. James Leibold, *Reconfiguring Chinese Nationalism: How the Qing Frontier and its Indigenes Became Chinese*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, Chapter 1, pp. 17-47.

**Recommended readings:**

1. Liu Xiaoyuan, *Frontier Passages: Ethnopolitics and the Rise of Chinese Communism, 1921-1945*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004, “Epilogue”, pp.
2. Thomas Mullaney, *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2011, Chapter 3 and 4, pp. 69-119.

**Week 13 (December 8)**

**Topic 12: Gender**

**Required reading:**

1. Gail Hershatter, *Women and China’s Revolutions*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, Chapter 8 and 9, pp. 219-279.

**Other recommended readings:**

1. Lydia Liu, Rebecca Karl and Dorothy Ko eds., *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2013, “Introduction: Toward a Transnational Feminist Theory” and “The Historical Context: Chinese Feminist World at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”, pp. 1-48.
2. Tani E. Barlow, *The Question of Women in Chinese Feminism*, Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2004, Chapter 2 “Theorizing ‘Women’”, pp. 37-63.
3. Wang Zheng, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories*, Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999, Part One 1 “Creating a Feminist Discourse”, pp. 35-66.

**Week 14 (December 15)**

**Topic 13: Post-Revolution**

**Required reading and viewing:**

1. Zhang Meng, *The Piano in A Factory* 钢的琴 (2011 Film), for online watching (English subtitled): <https://www.iqiyi.com/v_19rrk2up08.html?vfm=m_331_dbdy>
2. Ban Wang and Xueping Zhong, “Introduction: Why Does Socialist Culture Matter Today?”, in *Debating the Socialist Legacy and Capitalist Globalization in China*, Xueping Zhong and Ban Wang eds., New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 1-19.

**Recommended readings:**

1. Dai Jinhua, “*The Piano in a Factory*: Class in the Name of the Father”, in *After the Post-Cold War: The Future of Chinese History*, Lisa Rofel ed., Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2018, pp. 91-108.
2. Wang Hui, “Two Kinds of New Poor and Their Future: The Decline and Reconfiguration of Class Politics and the Politics of the New Poor”, in *China’s Twentieth Century: Revolution, Retreat and the Road to Equality*, Saul Thomas ed., London: Verso, 2016, pp.

**Week 15 (December 22)**

**Writing Workshop**