

INTRODUCTION TO CHINA

Spring 2019

MWF 2:00-3:00 p.m.

RLP 0.112

Office Hour: MW 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Prof. H. Li

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Course description:

This course introduces the study of Chinese history, society, and culture through an examination of ideas, events, and institutions that shaped the cultural unities and diversities as well as historical changes and continuities in the development of Chinese civilization. Topics include philosophy and religion; population and economy; state and governance; gender, ethnicity, and cultural identity. This course provides a foundation for continued study of Chinese history and society for students who plan to go on to more specialized, upper-division courses including Chinese anthropology, history, psychology, sociology, economics, law, policy, international business, art history, architecture, environmental science, and philosophy.

Required readings:

P. B. Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History: China* (2nd Ed., Cambridge, 2010)

D. Hinton, trans., *The Four Chinese Classics* (Counterpoint, 2016)

H. Li, *Village China Under Socialism and Reform: A Micro-history* (Stanford, 2009)

Grading:

Three tests (25% each, 75% total): February 25, April 8, and May 6.

Term paper (25%): due Friday, May 10 in class.

Attendance policy: random attendance check takes place throughout the semester. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Additional absences without acceptable documentations will lower your final grade, 2% for each and up to 10%.

Note: 1) Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade.

2) Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Schedule:

Week 1

Jan. 23 (Wed.)

Introduction

Jan. 25 (Fri.) Dynastic cycles

Week 2

Jan. 28 (Mon.) Sinocentrism
Jan. 30 (Wed.) Origins of Chinese civilization
Feb. 1 (Fri.) Early states

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 1

Week 3

Feb. 4 (Mon.) The first unified empires
Feb. 6 (Wed.) Confucius and Confucianism
Feb. 8 (Fri.) “Hundreds of Schools”

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chaps. 2 & 3;
The Four Chinese Classics, part II

Week 4

Feb. 11 (Mon.) Taoism
Feb. 13 (Wed.) The Taoist religion
Feb. 15 (Fri.) Buddhism

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 4
The Four Chinese Classics, part I

Week 5

Feb. 18 (Mon.) Pure Land and Chan Buddhism
Feb. 20 (Wed.) Unification and expansion
Feb. 22 (Fri.) The flourishing of Chinese civilization

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 5 & 6

Week 6

Feb. 25 (Mon.) **Test #1**
Feb. 27 (Wed.) Ming China
Mar. 1 (Fri.) Population and economy

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chaps. 7 & 8

Week 7

Mar. 4 (Mon.) The Qing expansion
Mar. 6 (Wed.) China in the early-modern world

Mar. 8 (Fri.) State and society in imperial China

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 9, pp. 220-236

Week 8

Mar. 11 (Mon.) Women, gender, and family

Mar. 13 (Wed.) Movie: "The Rise of the Dragon"

Mar. 15 (Fri.) China and the West: early encounters

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 9, pp. 234-252

Week 9

[Spring break]

Week 10

Mar. 25 (Mon.) Early modernization

Mar. 27 (Wed.) Did China fail? The Making of the treaty system

Mar. 29 (Fri.) Reform and resistance in modern China

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 9, pp. 252-261

Week 11

Apr. 1 (Mon.) The rise of nationalism

Apr. 3 (Wed.) Warlordism

Apr. 5 (Fri.) Nationalist China

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 10, pp. 262-286

Week 12

Apr. 8 (Mon.)

Test #2

Apr. 10 (Wed.) Origins of Chinese communism

Apr. 12 (Fri.) The Communist revolution

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 10, pp. 286-293

Week 13

Apr. 15 (Mon.) Movie: "China in Revolution" (I)

Apr. 17 (Wed.) Movie: "China in Revolution" (II)

Apr. 19 (Fri.) Chinese socialism

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 11

Week 14

Apr. 22 (Mon.)	Great Leap Forward
Apr. 24 (Wed.)	Cultural Revolution: preludes
Apr. 26 (Fri.)	Cultural Revolution: key events

Readings: *Village China Under Socialism and Reform*, Chaps. 1-4

Week 15

Apr. 29 (Mon.)	Economic reforms
May 1 (Wed.)	Chinese politics
May 3 (Fri.)	Chinese society

Readings: *Village China Under Socialism and Reform*, Chaps. 8-10

Week 16

May 6 (Mon.)	Test #3
May 8 (Wed.)	Future challenges
May 10 (Fri.)	The rise of China in historical perspective

Readings: *Cambridge Illustrated History: China*, Chap. 12

[**Term paper due** Friday, May 10]