

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 383-01: Chinese History to 1800

Fall Semester 2004

TR 9:30-10:45pm MCVR 226

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/%7Ejaander2/HIS383/index.html>

Office Hours: MW 10:00-10:50am, and by appointment

Course Description

The Western world's interest in China has long followed two paths, one material and one spiritual. While Western traders and government leaders debated various routes to the elusive "China Market," artists and philosophers deliberated tenets of Confucianism, Daoism (Taoism) and Buddhism, the schools of thought that flourished in traditional Chinese society. The end result was a representation of China still popular in the West, as full of Western dreams and ambitions as it is of Chinese realities. The current debates regarding Chinese trading privileges and human rights abuses are clearly shaped by this Western profile of China. Our course will hold up this picture to scrutiny, while introducing and illuminating both the remarkable and the commonplace from China's past.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with an historical topic.
- Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- Learn of the fundamental historical developments in China from earliest times to ca. 1800.
- Understand better the effect the ancient past has had on the modern world.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

Course Requirements

There will be a take-home final exam, six in-class "half-hourly" quizzes (including a skills quiz), and two 5-7 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1" margins, paginated) "think piece" papers. The first paper will be due **Thursday, October 7th** and the second paper will be due in class on **Tuesday, November 23rd**. The schedule for the six in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Tuesday, November 30th** and it must be turned in to me in class on **Thursday, December 2nd**. Attendance during all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, the completion of **all** required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

E-mail Accounts

I will require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. Please set up these accounts as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grading

"Half-hourly" quizzes	40% (8% each)
Map Quiz	Ungraded "practice quiz"
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%

Final Exam	15%
Class Participation	15%

“Half-hourly” Quizzes

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period.

No Make-up Quizzes

No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class. Instead, you may drop one of your five graded quizzes, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have missed one quiz, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

Final Take-home Examination

There is a four (4)- page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute the questions two days before the exam due date. The exam will be due in class on **Thursday, December 2nd**. We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

Classroom Discussions

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course, especially this semester. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class during lecture. When a film is shown in class, we will follow the presentation with a short discussion. Due to the size of the class, students will be divided into four (4) formal discussion groups (**Groups A-D**). These groups will usually lead class discussions on Thursdays.

Each week's group will submit five (5) questions to the class for discussion. Following class each discussion group member will also submit their own two (2) questions to me. The first formal discussion will be held on **Thursday, August 26th**. Students must sign up for their preferred group by **Tuesday, August 24th**. I will take attendance for each discussion group, and students may not switch groups without my prior permission. General instructions regarding the classroom discussion format may also be found at the course web site.

Students will be graded on their contribution to the formal discussion groups and on their participation in informal class discussions. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing. **Any student with more than five unexcused absences from their discussion group will receive "0%" for the class participation portion of their final grade.**

Short Discussion Response Exercises

Following discussions led by student discussion groups, I will require that you submit a two (2)-paragraph response to the five questions posed by that week's discussion group. One (1) paragraph will be a response to one of the five questions submitted by the group. One (1) paragraph will be a personal reflection on the whole classroom discussion that week. Was anything left out of the general discussion? Do you have an observation that you wish to offer in greater detail? These exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight “checks” for all exercises, you will have earned a “B” for this part of the course. To earn a “check-plus” you need to demonstrate that you have thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The

purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam. Please include your name with each submission. You will be required to submit at least **five** (5) responses this semester.

Web-site

I have created a Web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the semester progresses. Students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. I will also include additional materials on the library's Electronic Reserve list. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for such materials.

“Think Piece” Paper

The “think piece” paper, to be written on assigned topics, will be based on your readings, section discussions, and the lectures. The first paper will be based on the Waley reading, and the second paper will be based on the Hinsch and Mann books. These papers are not research papers; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Web-based exercise

During the first week of class I will ask you to visit the web site *Chinese Festival & Holidays Index* at http://chineseculture.miningco.com/library/weekly/topicsub_festival.htm. In a short three-sentence response, please indicate the festival you would most like to attend and why. Use the e-mail address you will most often access during the semester, and send the responses to jamie_anderson@uncg.edu.

Required Books

1. Ebrey, Patricia B. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. ISBN: 0521435196.
2. Ivanhoe, Philip J. and Bryan W. Van Norden (eds.). *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Co Inc; Reprint edition, 2003. ISBN: 087220703X.
3. Hinsch, Bret. *Women in Early Imperial China*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002. ISBN: 0742518728.
4. Mann, Susan and Yu-Yin Cheng (Editors). *Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. ISBN: 0520222768.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
China: Geography, Prehistory, And Earliest Times	
August 17-19: Course Introduction. A Quick Look at China.	Film: <i>Mandate of Heaven</i> Web exercise: Please see page #3 for URL.
August 24-26: China's Prehistory: Archeological and Legendary Pasts. Traditional Chinese World Order.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp.10-37. 2) Yang article, "Historical Notes on the Chinese World Order" (E-reserve) Questions from Group A
"Practice" Map Quiz #1, Tuesday 8/24	
August 31-September 2: China's Zhou Dynasty and Origins of Confucian Beliefs.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 10-37. 2) Tu article, "Probing the Three Bonds and Five Relationships in Confucian Humanism" (E-reserve) Questions from Group B
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA	
September 7-9: The Various Systems of Thought from the "One Hundred Schools" Period.	Readings 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 38-59. 2) Ivanhoe, <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , pp.203-245, 295-344. Questions from Group C
QUIZ #2, Tuesday 9/7	
September 14-16: Rise and Fall of China's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism.	Readings 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 60-85. 2) Hinsch book, <i>Women</i> , pp. 1- 57. Questions from Group D

September 21-23: China's Period of Disunion. The Rise of Buddhism.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 86-107. 2) Mann, pp. 1-8, 17-69. Questions from Group D
QUIZ #3, Tuesday 9/21	
September 28-30: China's Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors, the Silk Road.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 108-135. 2) Hinsch, pp. 59-91. Questions from Group A
October 5-7: Social Change during the Song Dynasty. Science and Technology. Neo-Confucianism.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 136-163. 2) Film: <i>China Bridge</i> .
QUIZ #4, Tuesday 10/5	
1st PAPER DUE IN CLASS Thursday, October 7th	

FALL BREAK: October 8, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 p.m

October 13, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 14: China's Conquest Dynasties: the Liao, Jin and Yuan. Mongol Rule in East Asia.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 164-189.
October 19-21: The Founding of Ming China. Ming Exploration and Withdrawal.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 190-219. 2) Mann, pp. 85-100, 253-261. Questions from Group B
QUIZ #5, Tuesday 10/19	
LATE IMPERIAL CHINA	
October 26- 28: Ming Merchants and Sages.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 190-219. 2) Mann, pp. 149-153, 239-250. Questions from Group C
November 2-4: The Various Roles of Women in Ming Society.	Reading: Owen, "Vernacular stories" (e-reserve) Questions from Group D
November 9-11: China's Last Imperial Order: the Manchu Qing Dynasty.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 220-234. 2) Film: <i>The Emperor's Eye</i>
November 16-18: The West in China. From Portuguese galleons to English warships.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 234-240.
QUIZ #6, Tuesday 11/16	

November 23: The Decline of Qing Power.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 240-261. 2) Film: <i>Two Coasts of China</i>
SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd	
NOVEMBER 24th - NOVEMBER 28th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
A CLOSER LOOK AT WOMEN IN IMPERIAL CHINESE SOCIETY	
November 30-December 2: Women and Governance. Women and Ritual. Concluding Points and Review	Reading: 1) Hinsch, 93-128, 129-157. Questions from the class.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th	TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2nd	LAST DAY OF HIS 383 CLASSES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2nd	TAKE HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS

