University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 383-01/ IGS 333-08: Chinese History to 1800 Fall Semester 2009
MWF 9:00-9:50am GRAM 207
Instructor: James A. Anderson
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E-mail: **jamie_anderson@uncg.edu** (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week.)
Course web site: **http://www.uncg.edu/%7Ejaander2/HIS383/index.html**

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

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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, five in-class "half-hourly" quizzes (including a map 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 in class on **Friday, October 9th**. The second paper assignment (in the form of two "court memorials") is due in class on **Wednesday, December 2nd**. The schedule for the five in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Monday, December 7th** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Monday, December 14th**. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, the completion of **all** required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

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

Skills Quiz	***Ungraded***
4 Graded Quizzes	**30% (7.5% each)**
Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, general participation)	**20%**
*Film Responses	(10%)
*Blackboard Discussion Questions and Reflections	(15%)
Paper	**15%**
Memorials	**15%**
Final Exam	**20%**

"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 four 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 5 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions on the last day of the course, and you will be required to construct an essay that clearly answers two of these questions while using the primary sources and secondary provided for the class. **The exams will be due in my office (2111 MHRA) no later than 3pm on Monday, December 14th**. We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Film Responses:

Four in-class film screenings will take place throughout the semester. Films will almost always be screened on Fridays. Written responses will always be due the Sunday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (Example. For the film shown on Friday, 28 August, the written response is due Sunday, August 30 by 11:59pm.) Prior to each screening, you will receive a film-guide handout featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare a well-written and thoughtful response to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each question. These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard. These due dates are listed on the Blackboard forums themselves. Film Responses will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **Late film responses will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date. All film responses are required assignments.**

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve at the Teaching and Learning Center in McIver Hall.

Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections:

Each Friday you will splinter into several smaller groups to discuss primary sources and articles illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the assigned sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in class. **These questions must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the preceding Thursday at 11:59pm. Print and bring these questions with you to present the following morning among your discussion group.**

Following each discussion you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection or summary. **These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Sunday at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the text that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the text since the Friday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here.

Discussion Questions and Reflections will be evaluated together as one assignment by the Graduate Assistant. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 10 (ten) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

The written 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.

Web-site
This class is served by a companion Blackboard site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. I also have created a web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the quarter progresses. Here 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. Please refer to the class 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 DC Lau reading and the Hammond book. The second paper will be a combination of two "memorials" submitted during the "Reacting to the Past" role-playing game. 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 Chinese government web site *Traditional Chinese Festivals* at http://www1.china.org.cn/english/features/Festivals/78131.htm. In a short three-sentence response, please indicate the festival you would most like to attend and why. Please post your response to the appropriate forum on Blackboard

Required Books

1. Ebrey, Patricia B. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. ISBN: 0521435196.

2. Hammond, Kenneth James. *The Human Tradition in Premodern China*. Human tradition around the world, no. 4. Wilmington, Del: Scholarly Resources, 2002. ISBN: 978-0842029599.

3. Confucius, and Dim Cheuk Lau. *The Analects (Lun Yu)*. Penguin classics. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979. ISBN: 9780140443486.

4. Huang, Ray. *1587, a Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981. ISBN: 9780300025187

5. Carnes, Mark C., and Daniel K. Gardner. *Confucianism and the Succession Crisis of the Wanli Emperor*. Reacting to the past series. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005. ISBN: 9780321332301.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
China: Geography, Prehistory, and Earliest Times	
August 24-28: Course Introduction. A Quick Look at China.	Film: *Mandate of Heaven* Web exercise: Please see page #3 for URL.
August 31- September 4: China's Prehistory: Archeological and Legendary Pasts. Traditional Chinese World Order.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp.10-37. Discussion Readings: Hammond *Premodern China* Chapter 1 ("Royal Consort Fu Hao"). **Discussion Questions always due Thursday by 11:59pm.** **Discussion Reflections always due the following Sunday by 11:59pm.**
"Practice" Skills/Map Quiz, Monday 8/31	
September 9-11: China's Zhou Dynasty and Origins of Confucian Beliefs.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 10-37. Discussion Readings: Spence article, "Confucius" (**E-reserve**) and DC Lau, *Confucius: The Analects*, pp. 9-55.
Monday September 7th , Labor Day Holiday	
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA	
September 14-18: The Various Systems of Thought from the "One Hundred Schools" Period.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 38-59. Film: *Chinese Poetry: Origins of a Tradition*.
GRADED QUIZ #1, Monday 9/14	
September 21-25: Rise and Fall of China's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 60-85. Discussion Reading: Hammond *Premodern China* Chapter 2 ("Li Si").

September 28- October 2: China's Period of Disunion. The Rise of Buddhism.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 86-107. Discussion Reading: Hammond, *Premodern China* Chapter 4 ("Biography of Guan Lu").
GRADED QUIZ #2, Monday 9/28	
October 5-9: China's Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors. The Silk Road.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 108-135. Discussion Reading: Schafer, "The Glory of the T'ang" **(E-reserve)**.
1ST PAPER DUE IN CLASS FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH	

FALL BREAK: October 9, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 p.m

October 14, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 12-16: Social Change during the Song Dynasty. Science and Technology. Neo-Confucianism.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 136-163. Film: *China Bridge*.
October 19-23: China's Conquest Dynasties: the Liao, Jin and Yuan. Mongol Rule in East Asia.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 164-189. Discussion Readings: Legrand "Mongol Nomadic Pastoralism" (**E-reserve**) and Hammond *Premodern China* Chapter 7 ("Liu Chenweng")
GRADED QUIZ #3, Monday 10/19	
October 26-30: The Founding of Ming China. Ming Exploration and Withdrawal.	Lecture Reading: *Illustrated History*, pp. 190-219. Film: *1421: the Year China Discovered America?*
EMPEROR WANLI SUCCESSION CRISIS GAME ("REACTING TO THE PAST")	
November 2-6: Introduction and Assignment of Roles. Interviews with Emperor Wanli and the First Grand Secretary.	Game Reading: *Gamebook*, pp.1-26, 42-66.
GRADED QUIZ #4, Monday 11/2	
November 9-13: First Audience with Emperor, First Memorials	Game Reading: *Gamebook* pp. 1-26 (reread), 27-41, Huang, *1587*, pp. 1-74, Appendices A&B.

November 16-20: Mid-point "review." Second Audience with Emperor Wanli.	Game Reading: Huang, *1587*, pp. 75-129.
November 23: Third Audience with Emperor Wanli. Responses of Emperor Wanli and First Grand Secretary.	Game Reading: Huang, *1587*, pp. 130-155.
NOVEMBER 25TH- NOVEMBER 29th	**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
November 30-December 4: Second Memorials. "Post Mortem."	Game Reading: Huang, *1587*, pp. 156-221.
FIRST AND SECOND MEMORIALS DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND	
December 7: Concluding Points and Review	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 78h	**LAST DAY OF HIS 383 CLASSES**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14th	**EXAM DUE in MHRA 2111 <u>by 3 p.m.</u>**

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