

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 383-01: Chinese History to 1800

Fall Semester 2002

MW 3:30-4:45pm 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 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 **Wednesday, October 9th**. The second paper is due in class on **Wednesday, November 20th**. 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 **Wednesday, December 9th** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 16th**. 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

"Half-hourly" quizzes	40% (8% each)
Map Quiz	Ungraded "practice quiz"
Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

Class Participation 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 five graded quizzes, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have 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 two weeks before the end of the course, and you will be required to construct an essay that clearly answers the question while using the primary sources provided for the class. **The exams will be due in my office (242 McIver) no later than 3pm on Wednesday, December 16th.** 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 Wednesdays.

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 **Wednesday, August 28th**. Students must sign up for their preferred group by **Monday, August 26th**. 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. This paper is not a research paper; 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 weeks of classes 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: 0-521-43519-6.
2. Cass, Victoria. *Dangerous Women: Warriors, Grannies and Geishas of the Ming*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1999. ISBN: 0-8476-9395-3.
3. Jonathan Spence, *Treason by the Book*. New York: Viking Penguin Inc., 2001. ISBN: 0-14-200041-8.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
China: Geography, Prehistory, And Earliest Times	
August 19-21: Course Introduction. A Quick Look at China.	Film: <i>Mandate of Heaven</i> Web exercise: http://chineseculture.miningco.com/library/weekly/topicsub_festival.htm
August 26-28: China's Prehistory: Archeological and Legendary Pasts. Traditional Chinese World Order	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp.10-37. 2) Spence article, "Looking East: The Long View." (E-reserve) 3) Yang article, "Historical Notes on the Chinese World Order" (E-reserve) Questions from Group A
"Practice" Map Quiz #1, Monday 8/26	
Monday September 2nd, Labor Day Holiday	
September 4: China's Zhou Dynasty and Origins of Confucian Beliefs	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 38-59. 2) Film <i>Confucius</i> 3) Spence article, "Confucius" (E-reserve) 4) Tu article, "Probing the Three Bonds and Five Relationships in Confucian Humanism" (E-reserve) Questions from Group B
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA	
September 9-11: The "One Hundred Schools" Period. Rise and Fall of China's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 60-85. 2) Film <i>Chinese Poetry: Origins of a Literary Tradition</i> .
QUIZ #2, Wednesday 9/9	
September 16-18: China's Period of Disunion. The Rise of Buddhism.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 86-107. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 1- 82. Questions from Group C

September 23-25: China's Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors, the Silk Road	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 108-135. 2) Film <i>Poetry of the Tang and Later Dynasties</i> .
QUIZ #3, Monday 9/23	
September 30-October 1: Social Change during the Song Dynasty. Science and Technology. Neo-Confucianism.	Reading: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 136-163. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 83- 145. Questions from Group D
October 7-9: China's Conquest Dynasties: the Liao, Jin and Yuan. Mongol Rule in East Asia.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 164-189. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 147- 175. Questions from Group A
QUIZ #4, Monday 10/7	
1st PAPER DUE IN CLASS Wednesday October 9th	

FALL BREAK: October 11, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 p.m

October 16, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 16: The Founding of Ming China	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 190-219. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 147- 175. Questions from Group B
October 21-25: Ming Exploration and Withdrawal. Merchants and Sages.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 190-219. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 177- 207. Questions from Group C
QUIZ #5, Tuesday 10/21	
LATE IMPERIAL CHINA	
October 28-30: China's Last Imperial Order: the Manchu Qing Dynasty.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 220-234. 2) Film: <i>In the Emperor's Eye</i>
November 4-6: The West in China. From Portuguese galleons to English warships.	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 234-240. 2) Spence book, <i>Treason</i> , pp. 209- 247. Questions from Group D
November 11-13: The Decline of Qing Power	Readings: 1) <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 240-261. 2) Film: <i>Two Coasts of China</i>

A CLOSER LOOK AT WOMEN IN THE MING	
November 18-20: Ming Society and Women in the Public Domain	Readings: 1) Cass, <i>Dangerous Women</i> , pp. 1-46, 65-85. Questions from Groups A&B
QUIZ #6, Monday 11/18	
SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH	
November 25: Ming Women in the Household	Reading: 1) Cass, <i>Dangerous Women</i> , pp. 47-64. Questions from Group C
NOVEMBER 27TH- DECEMBER 1ST	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
December 2-6: Women in the Household (Cont.). Women on the Margins.	Reading: 1) Cass, <i>Dangerous Women</i> , pp. 87-123. Questions from Group D
December 9: Concluding Points and Review	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th	LAST DAY OF HIS 383 CLASSES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th	EXAM DUE in MCVR 242 by 3 p.m.