

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 383-01: Chinese History to 1800

Fall Semester 2012

TR 3:30-4:45 MHRA 2207

Instructor: James A. Anderson

Telephone: (336) 334-5209

Office: 2111 MHRA

E-mail: jamie_anderson@uncg.edu (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week.)

Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50am 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:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis: Departmental and GEC HP goal]
3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]
4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation: Departmental and GEC HP]

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 **Thursday, October 4th**. The second paper assignment (in the form of two "court memorials") is due in class on **Thursday, November 29th**. 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 **Thursday, November 29th** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Thursday, December 6th**. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

Grading

Skills Quiz

4 Graded Quizzes

Ungraded

30% (7.5% each)

| | | |
|---|------------|-------|
| Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, participation) | 20% | |
| *Film Responses | | (10%) |
| *Blackboard Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections | | (10%) |
| Paper | 15% | |
| Memorials | 15% | |
| Final Exam | 20% | |

Quizzes (Learning Goals 1, 4):

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. All assigned readings will be addressed, 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 will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

Final Take-home Examination (Learning Goals 1, 4):

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 Thursday, December 6th.** We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Film Responses (Learning Goal 1):

Four in-class film screenings will take place throughout the semester. Written responses will always be due the Monday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (Example. For the film shown on Thursday, 23 August, the written response is due Monday, August 28 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 well-written and thoughtful responses to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each of 3-5 questions present. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Monday at midnight.** These due dates are listed on the Blackboard forums themselves. **All film responses are required assignments.**

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve at the Jackson Library.

Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections (Learning Goals 1, 2, 4):

Many Thursdays 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 Wednesday 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 Monday 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 (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, 4):

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 Wright book. The second paper will be a combination of two “memorials” submitted during the “Reacting to the Past” role-playing game (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, 4). 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 (Learning Goal 1):

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. Wills, John E. *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1996. ISBN: 9780691026749.
3. Wright, Arthur F. *Buddhism in Chinese History*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1959. ISBN: 9780804705486.
4. Confucius, and Dim Cheuk Lau. *The Analects (Lun Yü)*. Penguin classics. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979. ISBN: 9780140443486.

5. Huang, Ray. *1587, a Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981. ISBN: 9780300025187.
6. 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 | |
| 21-23 August: Course Introduction. A Quick Look at China. | Film: <i>Mandate of Heaven</i> (VH2636) Web exercise: Please see page #3 for URL. |
| 28-30 August: China's Prehistory: Archeological and Legendary Pasts. Traditional Chinese World Order. | Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp.10-37. Discussion Readings: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 1 ("Yu"), pp. 3-10. Discussion Questions always due Thursday by 11:59pm. Discussion Reflections always due the following Monday by 11:59pm. |
| SKILLS QUIZ, Tuesday 28 August | |
| Ungraded, but <u>required</u> of all students | |
| 4-6 September: China's Zhou Dynasty and Origins of Confucian Beliefs. | Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 10-37. Discussion Readings: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 2 ("Confucius"), pp. 11-32 and DC Lau, <i>Confucius: The Analects</i> , pp. 9-55. |
| EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA | |
| 11-13 September: The Various Systems of Thought from the "One Hundred Schools" Period. | Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 38-59. Film: <i>Chinese Poetry: Origins of a Tradition</i> (VH10656). |
| GRADED QUIZ 1, Tuesday 11 September | |
| 18-20 September: Rise and Fall of China's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism. | Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i> , pp. 60-85 and Wright, <i>Buddhism in Chinese History</i> , Chapter 1, "The Thought and Society of Han China," pp. 3-20. Discussion Reading: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 4 ("Sima Qian"), pp. 51-71. |

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| <p>25-27 September: China's Period of Disunion. The Rise of Buddhism.</p> | <p>Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i>, pp. 86-107 and Wright, <i>Buddhism in Chinese History</i>, Chapter 3, "The Period of Domestication," pp. 42-64. Discussion Reading: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 7 ("Zhuge Liang"), pp. 100-113.</p> |
| <p>GRADED QUIZ 2, Tuesday 25 September</p> | |
| <p>2-4 October: China's Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors. The Silk Road.</p> | <p>Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i>, pp. 108-135 and Wright, <i>Buddhism in Chinese History</i>, Chapter 4, "The Period of Independent Growth," pp. 65-85. Discussion Reading: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 9 ("Empress Wu"), pp. 127-148.</p> |
| <p>1ST PAPER DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY OCTOBER 4TH</p> | |
| <p>WEEK'S TOPIC</p> | <p>READINGS AND DISCUSSION</p> |
| <p>9-11 October: Social Change during the Song Dynasty. Science and Technology. Neo-Confucianism.</p> | <p>Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i>, pp. 136-163 and Wright, <i>Buddhism in Chinese History</i>, Chapter 5, "The Period of Appropriation," pp. 86-107. Discussion Reading: Wills, <i>Mountain of Fame</i> Chapter 11 ("Yue Fei"), pp. 168-180.</p> |
| <p>GRADED QUIZ 3, Tuesday 9 October</p> | |
| <p>FALL BREAK: October 12, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 p.m</p> | |
| <p>October 17, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m</p> | |
| <p>18 October: China's Conquest Dynasties: the Liao, Jin and Yuan. Mongol Rule in East Asia.</p> | <p>Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i>, pp. 164-189.</p> |
| <p>23-25 October: The Founding of Ming China. Ming Exploration and Withdrawal.</p> | <p>Lecture Reading: <i>Illustrated History</i>, pp. 190-219. Film: <i>1421: the Year China Discovered America?</i> (DV1538)</p> |
| <p>GRADED QUIZ 4, Tuesday 23 October</p> | |

| EMPEROR WANLI SUCCESSION CRISIS GAME (“REACTING TO THE PAST”) | |
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| 30 October – 1 November: Introduction and Assignment of Roles. Interviews with Emperor Wanli and the First Grand Secretary. | Game Reading: <i>Gamebook</i> , pp.1-26, 42-66. |
| 6-8 November: First Audience with Emperor, First Memorials | Game Reading: <i>Gamebook</i> pp. 1-26 (reread), 27-41, Huang, <i>1587</i> , pp. 1-74, Appendices A&B. |
| 13-15 November: Mid-point “review.” Second Audience with Emperor Wanli. | Game Reading: Huang, <i>1587</i> , pp. 75-129. |
| 20 November: Third Audience with Emperor Wanli. Responses of Emperor Wanli and First Grand Secretary. | Game Reading: Huang, <i>1587</i> , pp. 130-155. |
| THANKSGIVING BREAK | No class on Thursday 22 November |
| 27 November-29 November: Second Memorials. “Post Mortem.” | Game Reading: Huang, <i>1587</i> , pp. 156-221. |
| FIRST AND SECOND MEMORIALS DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER | |
| 29 November | Final Class Meeting. Final Exams Distributed. |
| THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER | LAST DAY OF HIS 383 CLASSES |
| THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER | EXAM DUE IN MHRA 2111 BY 3 P.M. |



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