"...China, ancient and modern, is more than exotic, and China is more than a political factor that we need to take into account (though it is that too); it is an area whose history raises questions of the broadest intellectual concern. If we really mean what we all say now about our discovery of the full dimensions of the modern world, our moral and intellectual realization that European and American histories are not the whole story, we will study Chinese history for its universal significance, not just for its relevance to the needs, political or cultural, of our part of the world."

Joseph Levenson
*China: An Interpretative History*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course is a survey of Chinese civilization from its ancient beginnings to the last imperial dynasty. Specific course learning objectives are:

1. To appreciate both the diversity and the commonalities of human experience as reflected in the development of Chinese civilization;
2. To understand and be able to articulate the main components and features of traditional Chinese culture;
3. To trace the main trends and development of Chinese society and government in the pre-modern era; and
4. To recognize how Chinese perceptions of their history and world views, cultural values and norms rooted in their past continue to influence the Chinese people and their society today.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are expected to read all reading assignments and to attend all class sessions.

Grading will be based on the following components:

1. Map Quiz (Jan. 24) (10 points included in Mid-term grade)
2. Course Essay #1 (Feb 28) 25% of grade
3. Mid-term Examination (Mar. 7) 25%
4. Course Essay #2 (Apr. 27) 25%
5. Final Examination 25%
6. Participation & completion of course evaluation (10 points added to Final Exam grade)

**COURSE POLICIES:**

- Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.
- The only valid reason for missing an exam is illness. A medical excuse requires advance
notification (by email or voicemail to the instructor) prior to the exam in question, followed up by a
doctor’s note. No make-up exams will be given for reasons other than a medical excuse.

- In accord with University policy, the final exam will be given during the designated final exam
  period. No advance exams will be given.
- Course essays are due in class on the due date. Essays turned in after this class period count as
  being one day late. Assignments submitted after their due date will be penalized a “half” grade (a
  plus or minus letter grade) for each day after the due date. Electronic copies of course essays
  must also be submitted via Blackboard within on day of the due-date. (All essays will be checked
  for plagiarism though Blackboard’s SafeAssign function).
- Instructions for specific assignments will be distributed separately and posted on Blackboard.
- The course does not use a fixed-point grade scale for exams. Each exam section will be assigned
  a set number of points, and grades will be curved based on the total points achieved.
- The Instructor supports the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is
  defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the
  work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of
  information.” For the remainder of the code, see: [http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html)
- Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should
  contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to
  establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information
  please refer to: [http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/)
- The Instructor may add readings or change assignments over the course of the class. Any such
  change will be announced in class and sent out as an email message to all students.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Book to be purchased (available at the Bookstore):
Qing Empire* (Hackett Publishing, 2010)

Online Resources:
[Please do not try to recall the Gelman copy of this book—I have it!]
Ebook:
Google:
[http://books.google.com/books?id=A0qs9W6Km6UC&printsec=frontcover&cd=1&source=gbs _ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=A0qs9W6Km6UC&printsec=frontcover&cd=1&source=gbs _ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false)
Ebook:

Additional readings (articles, chapters from books, etc.) will be posted as pdf files on Blackboard
(See specific class sections under “Outline.”)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS:

1) Jan. 12  INTRODUCTION: CHINESE HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY
   Course Material: Periodization Scheme

2) Jan. 14  GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE
   Tanner, pp. 3-14
3) Jan. 19  
PREHISTORY: LEGENDS AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
Tanner, pp. 14-28, 33-36  
Anonymous, “Cultural Heroes”, and Ssu-ma Chien, “Good Emperors”, in Dun J. Li, ed.,  
*The Civilization of China* (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1975), pp. 5-12.  
Dun Li, *Ageless Chinese*, (selection)  

Recommended:  
Ch. 1: “Yu,” in John E. Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 3-10

Course Material: Legends, Yangshao/Longshan/Shang Chart, Neolithic Table

4) Jan. 21  
FROM PREHISTORY TO HISTORY: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE WRITTEN RECORD  
Tanner, pp. 36-46  

Map Quiz

5) Jan. 26  
ANCIENT CHINA: THE SHANG AND ZHOU DYNASTIES  
Tanner, pp. 46-56  
[Add Li Jun chapter]

6) Jan 28  
ANCIENT CHINA: THE WARRING STATES  
Tanner, pp. 59-66  

7) Feb. 2  
IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: CULTURE AND THOUGHT  
Tanner, pp. 67-78  

Course Materials: Philosophers, Philosophies Comparison Chart

8) Feb. 4  
IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: CONFUCIANISM  


Recommended:


Course Material: Confucian Classics

9) Feb. 9 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: TAOISM

Laozi: Wing-tsit Chan, 136-176

(Chapters: 1-5, 7-9, 11, 15-20, 22, 24-25, 29-32, 36-37, 40, 42-44, 47-49, 56-57, 59-61, 63-66, 68, 70-72, 74-76, 78, 80)


10) Feb. 11 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: MOHISM & LEGALISM


11) Feb. 16 THE QIN DYNASTY: THE LEGALIST EMPIRE


Recommended:

Ch. 3: “First Emperor,” in John E. Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 33-50

12) Feb. 18 THE HAN DYNASTY: THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM


Recommended:


13) Feb. 23 THE HAN DYNASTY: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS


Recommended:

Ch. 5: “Wang Mang,” in John E. Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 72-89

Essay #1 Due
14) Feb. 25  THE HAN DYNASTY: "BARBARIAN" MANAGEMENT
Tanner, pp. 96-99, 115-117, 135-152

15) Mar. 1  MID-TERM EXAMINATION

16) Mar. 3  POPULAR TAOISM AND THE INTRODUCTION OF BUDDHISM
Tanner, pp. 122-123, 152-162

17) Mar. 8  FROM SUI TO TANG: EMPERORS AND THEIR IMAGES
Tanner, pp. 162-172, 181-184
Ch. 1: "Empress Wu," John E. Wills, Mountain of Fame, pp. 127-148.

18) Mar. 10  THE TANG DYNASTY: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS
Tanner, pp. 172-178, 185-198

(Mar. 14-19)  Spring Break—NO CLASS

19) Mar. 22  THE SONG DYNASTY: THE CIVIL TRADITION
Tanner, pp. 201-234

20) Mar. 24  THE SONG DYNASTY: CONFUCIAN REVIVAL AND POLITICAL REFORM

21) Mar. 29  TANG-SONG RELIGION
Tanner, pp. 178-181, 365-367

22) Mar. 31  WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL CHINA: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
Tanner, 359-360
*Patricia Ebrey, “Gender and Sinology: Shifting Western Interpretations of Footbinding, 1300-1890,” Late Imperial China, Vol. 20, No. 2 (December 1999), pp. 1-34.

23) Apr. 5 THE LATE EMPIRE: YUAN, MING, AND QING DYNASTIES
Tanner, pp. 239-273, 281-283, 286-292, 296-301, 310-335, 340-356

24) Apr. 7 THE LATE EMPIRE: GOVERNMENT AND THE GROWTH OF AUTOCRACY
Tanner, pp. 283-286, 292-296


26) Apr. 14 THE LATE EMPIRE: THE GENTRY CLASS
Tanner, pp. 356-359.

27) Apr. 19 THE LATE EMPIRE: THE CITY AND COMMERCE
Tanner, pp. 217-220, 301-306

28) Apr. 21 (= Monday) Review

Essay #2 Due

Final Examination—on University assigned date.