

**History 118**  
**China to 1800**  
(CRN 46433)  
Spring 2009

Instructor: Edward A. McCord

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1957 E. St, NW, Suite 503

Class Periods and Classrooms:

Mondays: 2:20-3:35 pm (Rome 206)  
Wednesdays: 3:45-5:00 pm (1957 E St., Rm 212)

Office Hours:

Mondays: 4:00-5:00 pm  
Wednesdays: 2:00-3:00 pm

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". . . 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:

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| 1. Map quiz, unannounced quizzes, and completion of course evaluation | 20% |
| 2. Reading Journal Entries (6 submissions)                            | 20% |
| 3. Course essay   | 20% |
| 2. Mid-term examination   | 20% |
| 3. Final examination  | 20% |

## COURSE POLICIES:

- The only valid reason for missing a quiz or an exam is illness. A medical excuse requires advance notification (by email or voicemail to the instructor) prior to the quiz or exam in question, followed up by a doctor's note. No make-up exams will be given for reasons other than a medical excuse.
- Unannounced quizzes will be based on course readings for the day of the quiz. Each student is allowed one "miss" for unannounced quizzes. (Students who miss no quizzes will be given full credit for their lowest scoring quiz).
- In accord with University policy, the final exam will be given during the designated final exam period. No advance exams will be given.
- 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. (The course essay is due in class on the due date. Essays turned in after this class period count as being one day late).
- Instructions for specific assignments will be distributed separately and posted on Blackboard.
- The course does not use a fixed-point grade scale for quizzes, exams or reading journal entries. Each quiz/exam/entry will be assigned a set number of points, and grades will be curved based on the total points in each category. Only the course essay will be given a letter grade. Grammar and spelling errors will be considered in the grading of papers and essays.
- I support 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>
- 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/>
- The Instructor may add readings or changes 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:

Books to be purchased (available at the Bookstore):

Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2000).

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2001), Second Edition.

Additional readings (articles, chapters from book, 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
- 2) Jan. 14 GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE  
Hansen, 3-14.
- (Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-- NO CLASS)
- 3) Jan. 21 PREHISTORY: LEGENDS AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
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.  
Kwang-chih Chang, “China on the Eve of the Historical Period,” in Michael Loewe and Edward L. Shaughnessy, eds., *The Cambridge History of Ancient China* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 37-73.  
\*Sarah Allan, “Erlitou and the Formation of Chinese Civilization,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 66, no. 2 (May 2007), pp. 461-496.  
(David Keightley, “Early Civilization in China,” pp. 16-21—See Feb. 4)
- Map Quiz
- 4) Jan. 26 FROM PREHISTORY TO HISTORY: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE WRITTEN RECORD  
Hansen, 16-32.
- 5) Jan. 28 ANCIENT CHINA: THE SHANG AND CHOU DYNASTIES  
Hansen, 32-53.  
\*Joseph R Levenson and Franz Schurmann, Chapter 4: “The Western Chou,” in *China: An Interpretive History* (University of California Press, 1969), pp. 27-40.  
(David Keightley, “Early Civilization in China,” pp. 21-32—See Feb.4)
- 6) Feb. 2 ANCIENT CHINA: THE WARRING STATES  
Hansen, 55-67, 73-79, 91-95.  
\*H. G. Creel, “The Beginning of Bureaucracy in China,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (February 1964), pp. 155-184.
- 7) Feb. 4 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: CULTURE AND THOUGHT  
Ivanhoe and Van Norden, xi-xvii  
\*Keightley, David, “Early Civilization in China: Reflections on How It Became Chinese,” in Paul S. Ropp, ed. *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization* (University of California Press, 1990), pp. 15-54.
- 8) Feb. 9 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: CONFUCIANISM  
Hansen, 67-73, 89-91.

Ivanhoe and Van Norden, 1-54, 115-157, 256-307.

- 9) Feb. 11 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: TAOISM  
Hansen, 83-89.  
Ivanhoe and Van Norden, 161-203, 207-250.
- (Feb. 16 George Washington's Birthday—NO CLASS)
- 10) Feb. 18 IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: MOHISM & LEGALISM  
Hansen, 79-82.  
Ivanhoe and Van Norden, 59-111, 311-359, 363-375.
- 11) Feb. 23 THE QIN DYNASTY: THE LEGALIST EMPIRE  
Hansen, 97-112.  
Sima Qian, "The Basic Annals of the First Emperor of the Qin," in *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty* [Burton Watson, translator] (Columbia University Press, 1993), pp. 35-74.  
Sima Qian, "The Story of the Rebel Chen Sheng," in *Historical Records* [Raymond Dawson, translator] (Oxford University Press 1994), pp. 141-145.
- 12) Feb. 25 THE HAN DYNASTY: THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM  
Hansen, 112-130.  
\* H. G. Creel, "The Eclectics of Han Thought," in *Chinese Thought from Confucius to Mao Tse-tung* (University of Chicago Press, 1953), pp. 159-185.
- 13) Mar. 2 THE HAN DYNASTY: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS  
Hansen, 130-143, 147-149, 157-158.  
Wm. Theodore de Bary, et al., eds., Chapter 9: "The Economic Order," *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. I (Columbia University Press, 1960). 211-227.
- Essay Due
- 14) Mar. 4 THE HAN DYNASTY: "BARBARIAN" MANAGEMENT  
Hansen, 170-175.  
\*Mark Edward Lewis, Chapter 6: "The Outer World," in *The Early Chinese Empires: Qin and Han* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 128-154.  
John K. Fairbank, "Tribute and the Growth of Trade," *Trade and Diplomacy on the China Coast* (Harvard University Press, 1969), pp. 23-33.
- 15) Mar. 9 MID-TERM EXAMINATION
- 16) Mar. 11 POPULAR TAOISM AND THE INTRODUCTION OF BUDDHISM  
Hansen, 144-147, 153-170, 185-189.  
\*Howard S. Levy, "Yellow Turban Religion and Rebellion at the End of Han," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (1956), pp. 214-224.  
Wm. Theodore de Bary, et al., eds., "The Coming of Buddhism to China" (section)

*Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. I (Columbia Univ. Press, 1960). 272-281.

- (Mar. 16-20) Spring Break—NO CLASS
- 17) Mar. 23 FROM SUI TO TANG: EMPERORS AND THEIR IMAGES  
Hansen, 175-185, 191-202.  
\*Arthur F. Wright, "Sui Yang-ti: Personality and Stereotype," in Arthur Wright, ed.,  
*Confucianism and Chinese Civilization* (Atheneum 1975), pp. 47-76.
- 18) Mar. 25 THE TANG DYNASTY: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS  
Hansen, 203-238, 243-245.  
\*Denis Twitchett, "Chinese Social History from the Seventh to the Tenth Centuries.  
The Tunhuang Documents and Their Implications," *Past and Present*, Vol 35  
(December 1966), pp. 28-53.
- 19) Mar. 30 THE SONG DYNASTY: THE CIVIL TRADITION  
Hansen, 261-286, 293-297.  
\*E. A. Kracke, Jr., "Sung Society: Change within Tradition," *The Far Eastern  
Quarterly*, Vol. 14, No. 4 (August 1955), pp. 479-488.  
MOVE THIS TO URBAN PART IF USE AT ALL
- 20) Apr. 1 THE SONG DYNASTY: CONFUCIAN REVIVAL AND POLITICAL REFORM  
\*James Liu, Chapter 3: "Wang and the Political Thought of the Northern Sung,"  
*Reform in Sung China: Wang An-shih and His New Policies* (Harvard University  
Press, 1959), pp. 22-33.  
[Need a gloss on such articles from books—students unclear who Wang was]  
Han Yu, "A Memorial on the Relic of the Buddha," in Victor Mair, et al., eds.,  
*Hawai'i Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture* (University of Hawaii Press,  
2005), pp. 354-358.  
Ssu-ma Kuang and Ou-yang Hsiu, "Two View on the Civil Service Examinators",  
T'o-t'o, "Wang An-shih," Ssu-ma Kuang and Wang An-shih, "Two Views on  
the New Program," in Dun J. Li, ed., *The Civilization of China* (Charles  
Scribner's Sons, 1975), pp. 192-208
- 21) Apr. 6 TANG-SONG RELIGION  
Hansen, 238-243, 245-258, 289-293.  
Ssu-ma Kuang, "Ancestral Rites," in Patricia Ebrey, ed., *Chinese Civilization and  
Society: A Sourcebook* (The Free Press, 1981), pp. 79-83.  
\*Arthur F. Wright, Chapter 5: "The Period of Appropriation," in *Buddhism in  
Chinese History* (Atheneum 1969), pp. 86-107.
- 22) Apr. 8 THE LATE EMPIRE: YUAN, MING, AND QING DYNASTIES  
Hansen, 299-376, 385-407.
- 23) Apr. 13 THE LATE EMPIRE: GOVERNMENT AND THE GROWTH OF AUTOOCRACY  
\*John W. Dardess, Chapter 4: "Ming T'ai-tsu," in *Confucianism and Autocracy:  
Professional Elites in the Founding of the Ming Dynasty* (University of

California Press, 1983), pp. 183-253.

- 24) Apr. 15 THE LATE EMPIRE: THE MARITIME FRONTIER  
Hansen, 376-384.  
\*Lo Jung-pang, "The Emergence of China as a Sea Power During the Late Sung and Early Yuan Periods," *The Far Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 14, No. 4 (August 1955), pp. 489-503.  
\*Bruce Swanson, Chapter 3: "Continental and Maritime Ideologies in Conflict: The Ming Dynasty," *Eighth Voyage of the Dragon: A History of China's Quest for Seapower* (Naval Institute Press 1982), p.p. 28-43.
- 25) Apr. 20 THE LATE EMPIRE: THE GENTRY CLASS  
Ch'u T'ung-tsu, Chapter 10: "The Gentry and Local Administration in Ch'ing China," in *Local Government in China under the Ch'ing* (Stanford University Press, 1962), pp. 168-192.
- 26) Apr. 22 THE LATE EMPIRE: URBAN GROWTH AND PEASANT REBELLION  
Hansen, 409-414.  
\*Jean Chesneaux, "The Legacy of Peasant Rebellion in Pre-Modern China," in *Peasant Revolts in China, 1840-1949* (W.W. Norton, 1973), pp. 7-22.  
\*Hok-lam Chan, "The White Lotus-Maitreya Doctrine and Popular Uprisings in Ming and Ch'ing China," *Synologica*, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 211-234.
- 27) Apr. 27 WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL CHINA: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE  
Hansen, 286-289.  
Ban Zhao, "Lessons for Women," in Nancy Swann, *Pan Chao: Foremost Woman Scholar of China* (Russell and Russell, 1968), pp. 82-90.  
\*Kay Ann Johnson, Chapter 1: "Women and the Traditional Chinese Family," *Women, the Family and Peasant Revolution in China* (University of Chicago Press, 1983), pp. 7-26.  
\*Patricia Ebrey, "Gender and Sinology: Shifting Western Interpretations of Footbinding, 1300-1890," *Late Imperial China*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (December 1999), pp. 1-34.
- 28) Apr. 29 Review

Final Examination—on University assigned date.