

[ANS 302C / HIS 306N](#)

Introduction to China

Fall 2009

Syllabus

Course unique numbers: 31035 (ANS) & 39590 (HIS)

Meeting time: MWF, 11-12

Classroom: [UTC](#) 4.112

Course website at http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/dsena/courses/ans302c_introchina/

For the updated version of this syllabus, consult the course website.

Instructor

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Course Description

Geographically, linguistically, ethnically, and economically, China today is a land of diversity, characterized by striking regional variations. Yet underlying this diversity is a shared cultural heritage: a unifying set of historical, literary, and artistic traditions, philosophical and religious ideas, political institutions, and a common writing system. This course introduces the study of Chinese society and culture through an examination of the cultural unities and diversities, continuities and discontinuities that comprise the historical development of Chinese civilization. Topics include philosophy and religion; cosmology and the life cycle; literature and arts; science, technology and medicine; power and authority; gender, ethnicity, and cultural identity. This course provides a foundation for continued study of Chinese history and society for students who plan to go on to more specialized, upper-division courses including Chinese anthropology, history, literature, sociology, economics, law, policy, international business, art history, architecture, environmental science, and philosophy.

Course Goals

The primary learning goal for this course is to acquire a broad understanding of the historical development of civilization in China. This course adopts a "hands on" approach by asking students to consider primary historical evidence of both a textual and visual nature. Therefore, a second goal of this course is to develop one's ability to interpret texts and images as historical evidence by considering such material within its particular political, social, and cultural context. The ultimate goal of the course is to acquire a richer understanding of Chinese civilization and to develop research skills that will facilitate continued study of and coursework on China and East Asia.

Requirements

- **Reading assignments:** The [schedule of class meetings and reading assignments](#) is available online via the [course website](#). Required reading averages roughly 70 pages per week. In addition to readings in the textbook, for each topic, students are asked to carefully read (or view) several **primary** historical sources drawn from a wide variety of archaeological, literary, and archival materials. Although such texts tend to be rather short, students are expected to read (and re-read as necessary) this material very carefully and to think critically and creatively about how such material informs one's understanding of Chinese civilization. Students will be expected to have completed the required reading assignment for each class before the class meeting.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to be fully engaged in class meetings by raising and responding to questions regarding lectures and readings. Friday meetings will generally be set aside for consideration and discussion of primary historical sources. Students should come to class prepared to discuss these readings. Students are also encouraged to participate by contributing to online discussion forums via [Blackboard](#).

Absence policy: Students are expected to attend all class meetings and are responsible for signing in on an attendance sheet to be distributed during each class. More than three absences will lower one's grade for class participation, 5% for each missed class.

- **Quiz:** One short quiz on geography and language will be administered in class on Wednesday 9/2.
- **Tests:** Three major tests will be administered during class according to the following schedule
 - **Test 1:** Monday 9/21, covering 8/26-9/18 and chapters 1-3 of the textbook.
 - **Test 2:** Friday 10/16, covering 9/23-10/14 and chapters 4-7 of the textbook.
 - **Test 3:** Monday 11/9, covering 10/19-11/6 and chapters 8-10 of the textbook.
- **Final examination:** The final exam will test material covered in class during the entirety of the semester. The exam is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 7:00–10:00 pm. The exam will be administered at the time and place officially scheduled by the Office of the [Registrar](#), typically finalized three weeks before the end of the semester. *All students must take the final exam at the [officially scheduled time](#). No make-up final exams will be given to accommodate vacation schedules or other personal time conflicts.*

Grading

- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Quiz: 5%
- 3 Tests: 60% (20% each)
- Final exam: 25%

Textbook

The following textbook is required and available at the [University Co-op Bookstore](#):

- Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Additional required readings for the class will be placed on electronic reserve. Students are responsible for downloading and printing (if necessary) these materials from the ERes website (<http://reserves.lib.utexas.edu/eres>). Please verify as soon as possible that you are able to access the ERes collection for this course. For copyright reasons, the ERes collection for this course is password protected. If you are enrolled in the class and don't have the password, please e-mail the instructor.

PowerPoint Files

Throughout the course we will be studying a large number of maps, images, and other visual materials. To facilitate individual review, copies of the PowerPoint presentations used by the instructor in class will be placed on the course ERes site. These presentation files contain a minimal amount of text and are in no way intended to obviate the need for careful note-taking during class.

Course Website

A website for this course has been established at http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/dsena/courses/ans302c_introchina/. It is essential that you establish some means of accessing the site because the updated syllabus, course schedule, assignments, handouts, and important announcements will all be distributed through the website. In addition to the course website, an online discussion forum is available via [Blackboard](#). Student grades will be posted in [eGradebook](#), available via [UT Direct](#). If you have any trouble accessing these tools, please consult the instructor.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on [scholastic dishonesty](#) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the [Student Judicial Services](#) website: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Schedule of Class Meetings

For reading assignments please consult the course website at http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/dsena/courses/ans302c_introchina.

Week	Meeting	Date	Day	Topic
1	1	8/26	Wed	Course introduction
	2	8/28	Fri	"China": Where and When?
2	3	8/31	Mon	The Languages of China
	4	9/2	Wed	Quiz + Neolithic Revolution
	5	9/4	Fri	Ritual Space, Ritual Time
3		9/7	Mon	Labor Day holiday; no class meeting
	6	9/9	Wed	The Springs and Autumns of Classical China
	7	9/11	Fri	The Hundred Schools
4	8	9/14	Mon	From Kingdom to Empire
	9	9/16	Wed	Canon and Cosmology in the Han Dynasty
	10	9/18	Fri	Discussion of primary sources and review for Test #1
5	11	9/21	Mon	Test #1: Chapters 1-2
	12	9/23	Wed	Between Han and Tang
	13	9/25	Fri	The Growth of Chinese Religions
6	14	9/28	Mon	China at the end of the Silk Road
	15	9/30	Wed	Artistic and Literary Culture in Middle Imperial China
	16	10/2	Fri	Discussion of primary sources
7	17	10/5	Mon	China's Commercial Revolution
	18	10/7	Wed	Traditional Education and the Imperial Examination System
	19	10/9	Fri	Discussion of primary sources
8	20	10/12	Mon	The Fluorescence of Literati Culture
	21	10/14	Wed	Film screening
	22	10/16	Fri	Test #2 Chapters 3-6
9	23	10/19	Mon	The Steppe and China's Other
	24	10/21	Wed	Inner Quarters: Women and Family Life in Late Imperial China
	25	10/23	Fri	Discussion of primary sources
10	26	10/26	Mon	The Manchu Empire in the Eighteenth Century
	27	10/28	Wed	Imperialism
	28	10/30	Fri	Film screening
11	29	11/2	Mon	Challenging Tradition in Republican China
	30	11/4	Wed	War and Revolution
	31	11/6	Fri	Discussion of primary sources and review for Test #3
12	32	11/9	Mon	Test #3 Chapters 8-10
	33	11/11	Wed	Building a New China
	34	11/13	Fri	Sustaining the Revolution: Mass Campaigns in Mao's China
13	35	11/16	Mon	The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
	36	11/18	Wed	White Cat, Black Cat: Economic Liberalization in Post-Mao China
	37	11/20	Fri	Popular Protest in the PRC
14	38	11/23	Mon	Film screening
	39	11/25	Wed	Film screening and discussion
		11/27	Fri	Thanksgiving holiday; no class meeting
15	40	11/30	Mon	China Rising: Emerging "Superpower" in the 21st Century
	41	12/2	Wed	Current (and Future) Events
	42	12/4	Fri	Review session for Final Exam
		12/9	Wed	Final Exam (date subject to change)