

Introduction to China

Fall 2013

Syllabus

Course unique numbers: 31775 (ANS) & 39545 (HIS)

Meeting time: MWF, 11am-12pm

Classroom: **UTC** 4.112

Course website at https://webspace.utexas.edu/~dms2244/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 cultural, social, and political 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.

This course carries a [University Global Cultures Flag](#). The goal of this flag is to challenge students to explore the beliefs and practices of non-U.S. cultural communities in relation to their own cultural experiences so that they engage in an active process of self-reflection.

Requirements

- **Reading assignments:** The [schedule of class meetings and reading assignments](#) is available online via the [course website](#). Required reading averages roughly 50 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. Many Friday meetings will be devoted to consideration and discussion of primary historical sources. Students should come to class prepared to discuss these readings.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class meetings and are responsible for signing in on an attendance sheet to be distributed during each class. While regular attendance is a substantial factor in your grade for participation, you earn credit for participation by being actively engaged in the class.

- **Quiz:** One short quiz on geography and language will be administered in class on Friday 9/6.
- **Tests:** Three major tests will be administered during class according to the following schedule:
 - **Test 1:** Monday 9/23, covering 8/28-9/20 and chapters 1-3 of the textbook.
 - **Test 2:** Friday 10/18, covering 9/25-10/16 and chapters 4-6 of the textbook.
 - **Test 3:** Monday 11/11, covering 10/21-11/8 and chapters 7-10 of the textbook.

Make-ups: Make-up tests, offered only in cases of illness or other extraordinary circumstances, must be arranged with the instructor BEFORE the regular exam is held. Requests for make-ups made after the fact will not be considered unless the student has made every reasonable effort to notify the instructor prior to the start of the exam.

- **Final examination:** The final exam will test material covered in class during the entirety of the semester. The exam is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 14, 2:00–5:00 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. If you enroll in this class knowing that you will leave town before the end of the final examination period, or later commit to doing so, you run the risk of receiving a grade of zero for the final exam.*

Grading

Final grades will be calculated according to the criteria below. Grades of plus/minus will be assigned as appropriate.

- Class 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*, **2nd edition** (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Online Course Materials

Additional required readings for the class will be distributed electronically via the [course website](#). Students are responsible for downloading and printing (if necessary) these materials. Access to copyrighted material is restricted to students who are enrolled in the course. In order to acquire this material, it is necessary for you to have access to [WebSpace](#), UT's online file storage and sharing system. If you have not done so already, please [sign up for WebSpace](#) as soon as possible and then [verify](#) that you are able to access these readings via the links on the [course schedule](#). Use your regular uteid and password to authenticate when prompted. Contact the instructor immediately should you have any difficulty accessing the course documents.

Instructor's Presentations

Throughout the course we will be studying a large number of maps, images, and other visual materials. To facilitate individual review, copies of the presentations used by the instructor in class are available via links on the [course schedule](#). 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 https://webspace.utexas.edu/~dms2244/courses/ans302c_introchina/. It is essential that you establish some means of accessing the site because all course materials and announcements will be distributed through the website. In addition to the course website, [Blackboard](#) will be used to post student grades and to host an online discussion forum. If you have any trouble accessing these tools, please consult the instructor or teaching assistant.

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 https://webspace.utexas.edu/~dms2244/courses/ans302c_introchina/.

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