INTRODUCTION TO CHINA

Spring 2011
T&Th 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
GSB 2.126
Office Hour: T&Th 12:30-2:00 p.m.

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Teaching Assistants:
Peter Hamilton, email: peter.e.hamilton@gmail.com; office hours: Tue. & Thur. 9:30-11:00 a.m. @ Burdine 306
Lorin Lee, email: lorin_ann_lee@mail.utexas.edu; office hours: Mon. & Wed. 1:00-3:00 p.m. @ WMB 1.114 (475-6796)

Course description:

This course introduces the study of Chinese history, 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; population and economy; 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, psychology, sociology, economics, law, policy, international business, art history, architecture, environmental science, and philosophy.

Required readings:

J. K Fairbank & M. Goldman, China: A New History (Belknap, 2006)
P. J. Ivanhoe & B. W. Van Norden, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy (Hackett, 2006)
Ray Huang, 1587, A Year of No Significance (Yale, 1982)
Jung Chang, Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China (Touchstone, 2003)
C. Fred Bergsten, China’s Rise: Challenges and Opportunities (Peterson, 2009)

Grading:

Mid-term exam (30%): Thursday, March 10.
Final exam (30%): Thursday, May 12.
Two short essays (15% each, 30% total): 5 double-spaced pages each, due Feb. 15 (Tuesday) and Apr. 21 (Thursday), respectively.
Attendance and participation (10%): 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 final grade by 1% for each missed class and up to 10%.
Note: 1) Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade.
2) 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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Historical patterns</td>
<td><em>China: A New History</em>, “Introduction”</td>
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<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>The making of Chinese empires</td>
<td><em>China: A New History</em>, Chap. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Confucius and Confucianism</td>
<td><em>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</em>, Chaps. 1 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Alternatives to Confucianism</td>
<td><em>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</em>, Chaps. 2, 4, &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Buddhism in China</td>
<td>“Smaller Pure Land Sutra” (available at Blackboard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>The Taoist religion; short essay #1 due</td>
<td><em>I Ching</em> (available at Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>“Early modern” China</td>
<td><em>China: A New History</em>, Chaps. 4-5</td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>The Qing empire</td>
<td><em>China: A New History</em>, Chaps. 6-7</td>
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<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Population and economy</td>
<td><em>China: A New History</em>, Chap. 8</td>
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<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>State and society in imperial China</td>
<td><em>1587, A Year of No Significance</em>, Chaps. 1-3</td>
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<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Women, gender, and family</td>
<td><em>1587, A Year of No Significance</em>, Chaps. 4-6</td>
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<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
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Mar. 22 (Tuesday)  Art and architecture in traditional China  
Readings: PPT file (available at Blackboard)

Mar. 24 (Thursday)  Chinese literature  
Readings: PPT file (available at Blackboard)

Mar. 29 (Tuesday)  Imperialism in modern China  
Readings: *China: A New History*, Chap. 8-9

Mar. 31 (Thursday)  Rebellion and reform in modern China  
Readings: *China: A New History*, Chaps. 10-12

Apr. 5 (Tuesday)  The rise of nationalism  
Readings: *China: A New History*, Chaps. 13-16

Apr. 7 (Thursday)  The Communist revolution  
Readings: *China: A New History*, Chap. 17

Apr. 12 (Tuesday)  Movie: “Battle for Survival”; discussion  

Apr. 14 (Thursday)  Transition to socialism  

Apr. 19 (Tuesday)  The Cultural Revolution  

Apr. 21 (Thursday)  The economic miracle; short essay #2 due  

Apr. 26 (Tuesday)  Chinese politics  
Readings: *China’s Rise*, Chaps. 3-4

Apr. 28 (Thursday)  Chinese society  
Readings: *China’s Rise*, Chaps. 5-6

May 3 (Tuesday)  The rise of China in historical perspective  
Readings: *China’s Rise*, Chaps. 7-8

May 5 (Thursday)  Movie; discussion  
Readings: *China’s Rise*, Chaps. 9-10

May 12 (Thursday)  Final Exam (2:00–5:00 pm)