History 569, Ancient Chinese Civilization
Fall, 2012
M 4:10-6:55  HSS 153

Instructor: Prof. Pi-ching Hsu
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Office Hours: M 2-4, W 11-12:20

China is the oldest continuous civilization on earth. The purpose of the course is to trace the evolution of Chinese civilization from the Neolithic through the medieval periods, up to the end of the Tang dynasty, around 900. We will study the lives and thoughts of ancient Chinese philosophers, the founding of the early Chinese empires, the flowering of Buddhism in China, the domestic and international politics at the formative stage of imperial China, the establishment of Chinese social and cultural tradition, and gender.

* This course fulfills History Major and Minor, as well as Pacific Asian Studies Minor requirements.
* This course is part of the GE Segment III cluster: Asian Society, Politics, and Culture. Students will not receive Segment III credit for the course unless they complete the cluster as described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin, including the requirement that they have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.
* Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

Mode of Instruction: lecture, films, and classroom discussion of assigned readings

Texts:
Ebrey, Patricia Buckley
Cambridge Illustrated History of China, 2nd edition
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010
978-0-521-12433-1

Sen, Tansen, and Victor H. Mair
Traditional China in Asian and World History
Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 2012
978-0-924304-65-1

Van Norden, Bryan W.
Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy
978-1-60384-468-0
Loewe, Michael
*Bing: From Farmer’s Son to Magistrate in Han China*
978-1-60384-622-6

Whitfield, Susan
*Life Along the Silk Road*
Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999
0-520-23214-3

**Requirements and Grading:**

Class Participation (10%): Attend classes regularly, do all required reading before class, take good notes, and be prepared for class activities, including mandatory small group discussions, where students take turns to lead discussions of assigned topics and write a brief report at the end of class. Always bring your book. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester and your performance will be noted.

Essay Assignments (45%): There are THREE essay assignments, each of 3-4 pages (5 pages for graduate students), typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, with appropriate documentation by using footnotes to indicate the author, title of book/article, and page number of your source material every time you quote, paraphrase, or refer to a source material. Put page number on the upper right-hand corner and staple on the upper left-hand corner. Observe the school regulation concerning plagiarism. No extension will be granted without compelling reason.

Each essay should have a short title, which is aimed at capturing both the audience’s attention and the essence of your subject matter. For each essay, you should consult at least a scholarly book or journal article (from JSTOR or library collections) in addition to the required readings.

**First Essay Assignment:**
Address one of the following issues:

1) The Eastern Zhou was a period of political, economic, and social breakdown. Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism all proposed measures to cope with the crisis either on a personal level or for the sake of state building. Analyze one school of thought in the historical context of Eastern Zhou. Or, if you prefer, analyze one school in comparison with another Axial Age philosophy.

2) Ancient philosophies may have modern applications. Discuss how Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, or Legalism may contribute to the modern world.

**Second Essay Assignment:**
Consult *Bing: From Farmer's Son to Magistrate in Han China* and a scholarly source, or visit the Asian Art Museum to observe a few artifacts related to the descriptions in *Bing*, and write an essay on Han religion, gender, politics, laws, military, society, economy, art, or culture.
**Third Essay Assignment:**
Write an essay on a select topic of **Tang history** (see above for possible subjects), based on your reading of *Life Along the Silk Road* as well as additional research.

**Exams (45%):** There are **TWO** in-class exams, in the form of multiple choice (testing basic historical knowledge as well as historical judgment), map, and identification of terms/quotes. As the exams are designed around lecture/discussion and cover substantial materials outside of the assigned readings, irregular attendance will significantly affect your performance. No make-up exams will be given without documented reason.

**Performance Characteristics to Guide Grading of Essays:**
(Modified from the criteria of CSET: Social Science Exam)

* **PURPOSE:** The extent to which the essay responds to the question/assignment.

* **SUPPORT:** Fair use of evidence/source materials to support arguments.

* **DEPTH AND BREADTH OF UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE:**
  Demonstration of command of subject content through narration and analysis.

* **FORM AND EXPRESSION:** The quality of writing, including vocabulary, clarity, cohesiveness, grammar, flow, structure, and documentation.

Grading is A-F, unless you choose CR/NC option online (min. C- for CR).

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All requirements have to be fulfilled to get a passable grade. “I” (Incomplete) will be granted only upon written request, with good reason, and when the student has completed and passed at least 75% of the course requirements. “WU” (Unauthorized Withdrawal) will be assigned if the student fails to fulfill all requirements by the due day of final essay without filing a petition for Incomplete. “W” (Withdrawal) will not be granted during the last three weeks of instruction without documented reason.

**Schedule of Classes:**
8/27: Introduction to the Course
   READ: *Traditional China*, 1-16
9/3: Labor Day. No Class.

**China in Antiquity: Neolithic, Xia, Shang, and Zhou**
9/10: READ: *China*, 1-59; *Traditional China*, 17-27

**The Age of Philosophers: Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, and Legalism**
9/17: READ: *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 1-100
The First Confucian-Legalist Empires: Qin and Han

10/1: READ: China, 60-85; Traditional China, 29-43
FIRST ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

Life in Han China

10/8: DISCUSS: Bing, xiii-92
10/15: DISCUSS: Bing, 93-182
10/22: FILM: Cities of China: Xian (#82273, 58 min.)
FIRST EXAM

Decline of Confucianism and Period of Disunity: Six Dynasties

10/29: READ: China, 86-107

From Aristocracy to Bureaucracy: Sui and Tang

11/5: READ: China, 108-135; Traditional China, 63-68
SECOND ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

11/12: Veterans’ Day. No Class.
11/19: Fall Recess. No Class.

The Flowering of Buddhism in China

11/26: READ: Traditional China, 45-61
FILM: Buddhism in China (#84556, 30 min.)

Tang Cosmopolitanism & Silk Road

12/3: READ: Life Along the Silk Road, ix-54
SECOND EXAM
12/10: DISCUSS: Life Along the Silk Road, 55-154
12/17: DISCUSS: Life Along the Silk Road, 155-225

12/21: THIRD ESSAY DUE IN MY OFFICE, SCI 265A, BY 4 P.M. SHARP
(I will be in my office 10-12 & 2-4)

1/4: Semester grade available online after midnight