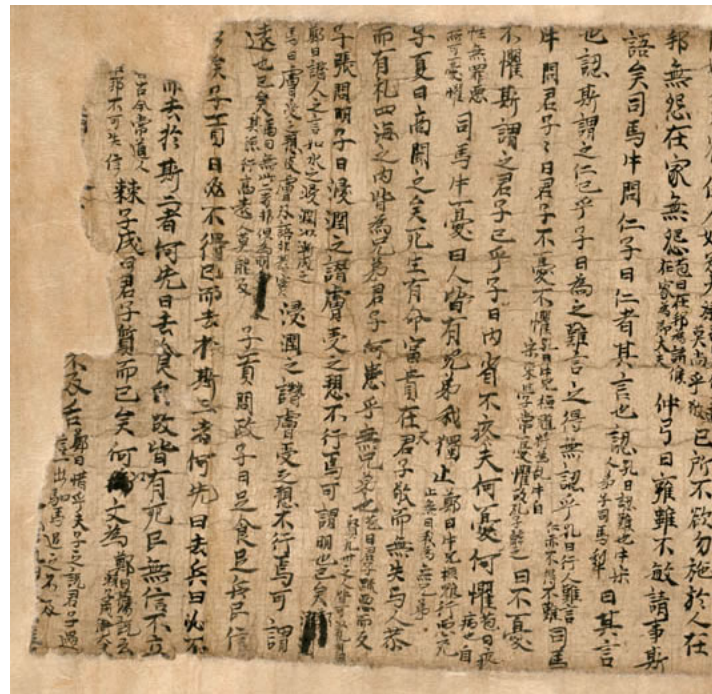


Introduction to Chinese Civilization



Analects of Confucius, from the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang, China

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the history, social-political developments, religious and cultural practices of China. We will examine a wide variety of topics, ranging from conceptualizations of the cosmos and views of life and death, to ways of social stratification and political organization, from marriage to legal practices, from religion, literature, arts to modernization experiments. Persistent concerns will be the values—both personal and collective—that develop and change through China's many traditions.

COURSE MATERIALS

Articles will be available online. Books will be available on reserve in the library and for purchase at the campus bookstore. All readings will be in English or English translation, although familiarity with Chinese will prove helpful.

Required Book:

📖 Patricia Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, 2nd edition. (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010). Paperback. ed. ISBN 978-0-521-12433-1

Key to Symbols:

- 📖 Reading from books.
- 📄 Electronic article available online.
- 🎬 In-class film screening.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and Participation (worth 10% of overall grade)

Regular class attendance is an important part of the course. The class participation grade will also be based on your preparation for and contribution to class discussions.

Online Response Posts (worth 20% of overall grade)

Please complete the assigned readings before the scheduled sessions. You are required to write a minimum of 10 brief online postings of one paragraph or two of your reflection on the course readings.

Two In-class Quizzes (worth 20% of overall grade)

There will be two short in-class quizzes on: 1) the dynasties and the provinces of modern China, and 2) important cultural, religious, political figures and works.

Individual Pre-class Research (worth 10% of overall grade)

You are encouraged to do some quick online/library-based researches on lecture-related topics. Details are given in the schedules for Week 7, 9 and 12.

First Short Paper (worth 20% of overall grade)

This assignment is an opportunity for you to analyze and reflect on the course reading of your choice. No additional research is necessary for this essay. See Week 8's schedule for more details. Essay guidelines and sample topics will be given.

Second Short Paper (worth 20% of overall grade)

You are asked to write another short essay of 5-6 pages on one China-related topic of your choice. Paper guidelines and sample topics will be given. See Week 14's schedule for more details.

COURSE POLICIES AND GRADING CRITERIA

Attendance/Absence And Electronic Device Policy: Especially because the lectures are a crucially important element of this class, attendance will be recorded via a sign up sheet circulated during every class period. Absences can be expected to have an adverse effect on all graded assignments and ultimately the final grade for the course. Only students who attend regularly will get the advantage of rounding up if their grade falls on a cut-off figure. Everyone present is to be engaged with the lecture. Laptops, I-Pads, and the like are to be used in the lecture hall *only* for note taking; turn off all other devices. *No* electronic devices are allowed during quizzes or the final examination.

Late Policy: All assignments (including online posts) are due on the scheduled day and time. I will grant a single 2-day extension, no excuses necessary, which you can use for any written assignment. Outside of this extension, one full letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is submitted late.

Academic Integrity: In all of your assignments, including your response posts and papers, you must always make clear where you have borrowed from others by identifying the original source and extent of your use of another's work. This obligation holds whether the sources are published or

unpublished and whether they are in print or on the Internet. Plagiarism or other breaches of academic integrity will be reported and can result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic Support Services and Disability Resources: I will make every effort to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations needed.

Religious observances: Please notify me in advance if you need to miss class or reschedule assignments due to participation in religious holidays.

Grading criteria are as follows:

1) An “A” paper is clearly written and well organized, and most importantly, contains a thoughtful, original and analytical central argument supported by illustrations and evidence drawn from course materials. It demonstrates that the student has grappled with the issues raised in the course, synthesized the readings and discussions, and formulated a compelling, independent argument. An “A” paper is polished and grammatically fluid.

2) A typical “B” paper is a solid work that demonstrates that the student has a good grasp of the course materials. This type of paper provides a mastery of ideas and concepts covered in the readings and discussions, but with little evidence of independent thought or synthesis. Other “B” papers do give evidence of independent thought but do not present an argument clearly or convincingly.

3) A typical “C” paper provides a less thorough or accurate summary of course materials, or a less thorough defense of an argument. A paper that receives a grade less than “C” typically does not respond adequately to the assignment, is marred by frequent errors, unclear writing, poor organization, evidence of hasty composition, or some combinations of these problems.

The grading scale utilized in this class is as follows:

98+ = A+
94+ = A
90+ = A-
87+ = B+
84+ = B
80+ = B-
77+ = C+
74+ = C
70+ = C-
67+ = D+
64+ = D
60+ = D-
< 60 = F

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Session 1: Introduction to the Course

Session 2: What are China, Chinese, and Chinese Civilization?

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, “Epilogue,” pp. 360-63; Chapter 1, “The Origins of Chinese Civilization: Neolithic Period 石器時期 to the Western Zhou 西周 Dynasty,” pp. 10-37
- 📖 Jerry Norman on the Chinese language
- 📖 Huot, “Dog-Eared Dictionary”

Week 2

Session 3: The Origins of the Chinese Cultures

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 2, “Philosophical Foundations: The Eastern Zhou 東周 Period,” pp. 38-59
- 📖 Poems on the Origins of Culture and the State from *Shijing* 詩經 (10th-8th cent. BCE)

Session 4: Organizing the Human Society in Early China

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 3, “The Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire: The Qin 秦朝 and Han 漢朝 Dynasties,” pp. 60-85
- 📖 Angela Zito, “City Gods and their Magistrates”

Week 3

Session 5: The Confucian/Legalist State and Public Morality I

- 📖 *The Analects* 論語 of Confucius 孔夫子 (551-479), Selections
- 📖 *Mencius* 孟子 of Meng Ke 孟軻 (Mencius, c. 370-c. 300 BCE), Selections

Session 6: The Confucian/Legalist State and Public Morality II

- 📖 *Xunzi* 荀子 of Xun Qing 荀卿 (?312-?240 BCE), Selections
- 📖 *Han Fei Tzu* 韓非子 of Han Fei 韓非 (c. 280-233 BCE), Selections

* Quiz 1 on China’s Dynasties and Provinces

Week 4

Session 7: *Guo* 國, The Chinese Nation State I

- 📖 “Laws on Penal Affairs” from *The Great Ming Code* 大明律, 1373
- 📖 “The Moralizing Judge,” a 1652 judicial review
- 📖 The Kangxi Emperor’s 清聖祖 “Sacred Edict” 聖諭, 1670
- 📖 *The Great Qing Code* 大清律例, 1725, selected sections

Session 8: *Guo* 國, The Chinese Nation State II

- 📖 Model Civil Service Examination Essay 八股文 by Wang Ao 王鏊 (1450-1524)
- 📖 “Taxes and Labor Service,” 1661

Week 5

Session 9: *Jia* 家, *The Chinese Family I*

- 📖 *Classic of Filial Piety* 孝經, Han period
- 📖 Traditional primers for early education: *San, Bai, Qian* 三百千
- 📖 Family Instructions 家訓, ca 1600
- 📖 Robert E. Hegel, *True Crimes*, Case 6: a 1696 homicide
- 📖 Genealogies 家譜, 1870
- 📖 Marriage Contracts 婚約, 19th cent.

Session 10: *Jia* 家, *The Chinese Family II*

Margery Wolf, *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*, “Uterine Families and the Women’s Communities”, pp. 32-41.

Yunxiang Yan, *Private Life under Socialism*, “Elderly Support and the Crisis of Filial Piety” & “Birth Control and the Making of a New Fertility Culture” pp. 162-216.

Week 6

Session 11: *Dao* 道, *The Way of Life*

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 4, “Buddhism, Aristocracy, and Alien Rulers: The Age of Division 南北朝,” pp. 86-107.
- 📖 Selections from Daoist texts: *Daode jing* 道德經, *Zhuangzi* 莊子
- 📖 Tao Qian 陶潛 (365-427): “Peach Blossom Spring” 桃花源記, other writings
- 📖 Selected texts on traditional medical diagnosis and treatment

Session 12: Religious Beliefs and the Buddhist Community 佛教

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 5, “A Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty 唐朝,” pp. 108-35.
- 📖 Selections from *The Lotus Sutra* 妙法蓮花經
- 📖 *The Mind (Heart) Sutra* 心經
- 📖 Buddhist Wisdom (*Prajña-paramita* 般若波羅蜜多): Selected Quotations

Week 7

Session 13: Religious Beliefs and the Buddhist Community 佛教 II

- 📖 Poems by Buddhist Nuns, lay literati practitioners
- 📖 Paintings by Chan masters

Session 14: Death and Dying in China

📖 Amy Olberding, and P.J. Ivanhoe, eds. *Mortality in Traditional Chinese Thought*, “Death and Dying in the Analects” & “I Know not ‘Seems’”, pp. 137-176; “Allotment and Death in Early China”, pp. 177-190.

📖 Janet Lee Scott, *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings*, selection
 * You are required to look online or from other sources for examples of China’s funerary practices prior to class.

Week 8

Session 15: The Chinese Writing: Poetry (*shici* 詩詞), Prose (*guwen* 古文), Fiction (*xiaoshuo* 小說) I

📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 6, “Shifting South: The Song Dynasty 宋朝,” pp. 136-63

📖 Selected Poems: *shi* 詩, *ci* 詞, *qu* 曲

📖 Prose Writings of the Tang and Song Periods 唐宋八大家

* First short paper due.

Session 16: The Chinese Writing: Poetry (*shici* 詩詞), Prose (*guwen* 古文), Fiction (*xiaoshuo* 小說) II

📖 Yuan Zhen 元稹 (775-831), “The Story of Yingying” 鶯鶯傳

📖 “Journey to the West” 西遊記, selections

📖 “Three Kingdoms” 三國演義, selections

Week 9

Session 17: The Chinese Arts: Calligraphy (*shu* 書), Painting (*hua* 畫), Theater (*xi* 戲) I

📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 7, “Alien Rule 金元兩代,” pp. 164-89

📖 Clunas, *Art in China*, “Art in the Life of the Elite”

Session 18: The Chinese Arts: Calligraphy (*shu* 書), Painting (*hua* 畫), Theater (*xi* 戲) II

📖 Calligraphy 書法 and literati paintings 文人畫

📖 Tang Xianzu 湯顯祖 (1550-1616), Scenes from *The Peony Pavilion* 牡丹亭

🌀 In-class screening of scenes from selected *Kunqu*, *Peking* opera, and *Yu* opera plays.

* You are required to look online or from other sources for examples of traditional Chinese art works prior to class.

Week 10

Session 19: Confucian Autocracy

📖 *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 8, “The Limits of Autocracy: The Ming Dynasty 明朝,” pp. 190-219

Session 20: Early Modern China

📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 9, “Manchus and Imperialism: The Qing Dynasty 清朝,” 220-61

📖 Kangxi Emperor’s Valedictory Essay, 1717

📖 Lord Macartney’s Commission, 1792

📖 Memorials, Edicts, and Laws on Opium, 1836-1840

📖 “Rebels and Bandits,” selected 19th cent. cases of treason against the Qing throne

Week 11

Session 21: Western Influence? Chinese Response?

📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 10, “Taking Action: The Early 20th Century 中華民國,” pp. 262-93.

Session 22: Literary Modernity

- 📖 Liu Tiejun 劉鐵雲 (1837-1909), *The Travels of Lao Can* 老殘遊記, 1904, Chapter 1
- 📖 Chen Duxiu 陳獨秀 (1880-1942): “On Literary Revolution” 文學革命論, 1917
- 📖 Lu Xun 魯迅 (1881-1936): “Madman’s Diary” 狂人日記, 1918

Week 12**Session 23: The “New China” I**

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 11, “Radical Reunification: The People’s Republic 中华人民共和国,” pp. 294-332.
- 📖 Mao Zedong 毛澤東 (1893-1976): “Combat Liberalism” 反对自由主义, 1937
- 📖 Liu Shaoqi 刘少奇 (1898-1969), “How to Be a Good Communist” 论共产党员的修养, 1939

Session 24: The “New China” II

- 📖 Ding Ling 丁玲 (1904-1985), *Sun Shines Over the Sanggan River* 太阳照在桑干河上, 1949
- 📖 Mao Zedong 毛澤东, “Talks at the Yan’an Forum on Literature and Art” 在延安文艺座谈会上的讲话, 1942

Week 13**Session 25: Post-Mao “Reform and Opening” I**

- 📖 Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History*, Chapter 12, “Opening to the West 开放,” pp. 332-59.
- 📖 Kleinman, et al., “Remaking the Moral Person in a New China”
- * You are required to look online or from other sources for examples/counterexamples of China’s “Reform and Opening” prior to class.

Session 26: Post-Mao “Reform and Opening” II

- 📖 Yu Hua 余华 (b. 1960), “On the Road at Eighteen” 十八岁出门远行
- 📖 A Cheng 阿城 (b. 1949), “Festival” 节日

Week 14**Session 27: Globalism and The “Post-modern” Chinas I**

- 📖 Selected recent works of art by Xu Bing 徐冰 and others
- 📖 Su Tong 苏童 (b. 1963), “Escape” 逃
- 📖 Guo Songfen 郭松棻 (1938-2005), “Running Mother” 奔跑母親

Session 28: Globalism and The “Post-modern” Chinas II

- 🎬 In-class screening of Wong Kai-wai’s film “2046”
- * **Quiz 2 on cultural, religious, political figures and works**
- * **Second short paper due in 2 weeks.**