

## CHINA TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

History 275

Fall 2007

Class: Tuesday 10:00-11:50

Thursday 10:00-10:50

Andrew C. Hsieh

Mears 201, x 3093

**Office Hours:**

Wednesday: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

and by appointment

This is an introductory course. It has no pre-requisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Chinese history. It will meet **two** times a week and will generally follow this pattern: Tuesday: lecture; Thursday: lecture and discussion of the week's assigned readings.

Requirements include:

- Writing a one-paragraph comment on the weekly principal reading for discussion (NOT from Hansen's The Open Empire). Do so for weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11. These one paragraph comments are due in class on Thursdays;
- Preparing a DI sheet for each Thursday's discussion: Do so for weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11.

Each DI (which stands for Discussion initiation) sheet is to be typewritten on one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper and should contain the following:

- the student's name;
- the date;
- the student's title for the week's discussion;
- the student's choice of one quotation from the week's assigned reading for discussion;
- the student's formulation of one question for the week's discussion.

Each DI sheet is due in class on Thursday of the week for which the readings are assigned. Late DI sheets will not be accepted.

- Completing two special writing assignments. Instructions to be announced later.
- Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays;

Each student's grade will be based on the performance of four kinds of assignments with roughly equal weight given to each:

- 35% on comments and the DI sheets,
- 35% on the two special writing assignments, and
- 30% on attendance and classroom discussion.

### **Texts:**

Valerie Hansen, The Open Empire, A History of China to 1600 (New York and London: W.W. Norton, 2000).

Arthur Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History (Stanford University Press, 1984).

Charles Benn, China's Golden Age, Everyday Life in the Tang Period (Oxford University Press, 2002).

**Texts: (continued)**

Jacques Gernet, Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion, 1250-1276 (Stanford University Press, 1980).

Patricia Ebrey, ed., Chinese Civilization, A Sources Book (NY: Free Press, 1996).

**Sessions**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

Aug 30-Th Organizational Meeting

**Week 2**

**Inventing China (ca. 1200 B.C. - 200 A.D.)**

Sep 4-T Neolithic Foundation

Sep 6-TH The Shang Civilization

Readings

Valerie Hansen, The Open Empire, pp. 3-41

Patricia Ebrey, ed., Chinese Civilization, A Source Book, pp. 3-10

**Week 3**

Sep 11-T State and Society Under the Western Chou

Sep 13-TH Classic Antiquity in Transition

Readings

The Open Empire, pp. 42-67

Chinese Civilization, A Source Book, pp.11-16

**Week 4**

Sep 18-T Classical Confucianism and Philosophic Taoism

Sep 20-TH Readings

The Open Empire, pp. 67-95

Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 17-31

**Week 5**

Sep 25-T Legalism and the Qin: the First Centralized Empire

**Week 5: (continued)**

Sep 27-TH Readings

The Open Empire, pp. 97-112Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 32-41; 51-53

Video: Technology in Early China

**Week 6**

Oct 2-T The Han Imperial Order

Oct 4-TH Readings

The Open Empire, pp. 112-130Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 54-65**Week 7**Oct 9-T **Han Economy and Religion**

Oct 11-TH Readings:

The Open Empire, pp. 130-49Arthur Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History, (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 3-20Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, Pp. 72-90**Week 8****Facing West (A.D. 200-1000)**

Oct 16-T Buddhism (Lecture)

Oct 18-TH Buddhism (Video)

**FALL RECESS (October 20 through 28)****Week 9**

Oct 30-T No Class for the week.

Nov 1-TH Complete First Special Assignment.

Due date: Nov. 5, 4:30 p.m., Academic Support Office, Mears Cottage.

**Week 10**

Nov 6-T Tang Cosmopolitanism

**Week 10: (continued)**

Nov 8-TH

Readings

The Open Empire, pp. 221-58

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Charles Benn, China's Golden Age, Everyday Life in the Tang Dynasty, pp. 6-175.

**Week 11**

Nov 13-T The medieval/early modern transition

Nov 15-TH Readings

China's Golden Age, pp. 177-294.

**Week 12**

Nov 20-T (No class. Begin reading Jacques Gernet, Daily Life in China on the Even of the Mongol Invasion, pp. 13-112).

**Facing North (1000-1600)**

**Week 13**

Nov 27-T The Rise of Neo-Confucianism

Nov 29-TH "Life Along the Bian River at the Pure Brightness Festival" by Zhang Zeduan, Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).

**Week 14**

Dec 4-T Chinese Under the Mongol Rule

Dec 6-TH Readings

Daily Life in China, pp. 113-246

**Week 15**

Dec 11-T First Contact with the West

Dec 13-TH Complete Second Special Assignment

Due Date: Dec. 17, 4:30 p.m., Academic Support Office, Mears Cottage