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:**

Texts: (continued)


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. 97-112
- Video: Technology in Early China

**Week 6**

Oct 2-T The Han Imperial Order

Oct 4-TH Readings

- *The Open Empire*, pp. 112-130
- *Chinese Civilization: A Source Book*, pp. 54-65

**Week 7**

Oct 9-T **Han Economy and Religion**

Oct 11-TH Readings:

- *The Open Empire*, pp. 130-49
- *Chinese 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
(cont. next page)
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


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