

CHINA TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

History 275
Fall 2008
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, and 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, and 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 a special writing assignment. Instructions to be announced later.
- Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays.

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

- 35% on comments and the DI sheets;
- 35% on the midterm and the special writing assignment; 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).

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**

TH Aug 28 Introduction

Week 2**Inventing China (ca. 1200 B.C. - 200 A.D.)**

T Sep 2 Neolithic Foundation

TH Sep 4 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

T Sep 9 State and Society Under the Western Chou

TH Sep 11 Classic Antiquity in Transition

Readings:

The Open Empire, pp. 42-67.

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

Week 4

T Sep 16 Classical Confucianism and Philosophic Taoism

TH Sep 18

Readings:

The Open Empire, pp. 67-95.

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

Week 5

T Sep 23 Legalism and the Qin: The First Centralized Empire

TH Sep 25 ***Readings:***
The Open Empire, pp. 97-112.
Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 32-41; 51-53.

Week 6

T Sept 30 The Han Imperial Order

TH Oct 2 ***Readings:***
The Open Empire, pp. 112-130.
Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 54-65.

Week 7

T Oct 7 Han Economy and Religion

TH Oct 9 ***Readings:***
The Open Empire, pp. 130-49.
Arthur Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History, (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 3-41.
Chinese Civilization: A Source Book, pp. 72-90.

Week 8**Facing West (A.D. 200-1000)**

T Oct 14 Buddhism (Video)

TH Oct 16 One-hour Midterm

FALL RECESS (October 18 through 26)**Week 9**

T Oct 28 Buddhism in China
Readings:
The Open Empire, pp. 153-189.
Buddhism in Chinese History, pp.43-64

Week 9 (continued)

- TH Oct 30 Tang Cosmopolitanism
Readings:
The Open Empire, pp. 191-219.
Buddhism in Chinese History, pp. 65-107.

Week 10

- T Nov 4 The Medieval and Early Modern transition
- TH Nov 6 *Readings:*
The Open Empire, pp. 224-257.
Buddhism in Chinese History, 108-127.

Week 11

- T Nov 11 Reforms and Reformers
- TH Nov 13 *Readings:*
Jacques Gernet, Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion,
pp. 13-112.
The Open Empire, pp. 261-297.

Facing North (A.D. 1000-1600)**Week 12**

- T Nov 18 The Rise of Neo-Confucianism
- TH Nov 20 Zhang Zeduan, "Life Along the Bian River at the Pure Brightness Festival,"
Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).

Week 13

- T Nov 25 No class

Week 14

- T Dec 4 Chinese Under the Mongol Rule
Reading:
The Open Empire, pp. 299-367.

Week 14 (continued)

TH Dec 6 *Reading:*
Daily Life in China, pp. 113-246.

Week 15

T Dec 9 Overseas Exploration and the First Contact with the West
Reading:
The Open Empire, pp. 369-407.

TH Dec 11 Retrospect

SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE DECEMBER 11, 4:30 P.M. Mears Cottage,
Mears Academic Support Office.