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:


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.

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.

Week 4

T Sep 16 Classical Confucianism and Philosophic Taoism

TH Sep 18 Readings:
The Open Empire, pp. 67-95.
Week 5
T  Sep 23   Legalism and the Qin: The First Centralized Empire
TH  Sep 25  **Readings:**
     The Open Empire, pp. 97-112.

Week 6
T  Sept 30  The Han Imperial Order
TH  Oct 2   **Readings:**
     The Open Empire, pp. 112-130.

Week 7
T  Oct 7    Han Economy and Religion
TH  Oct 9   **Readings:**
     The Open Empire, pp. 130-49.

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.

Week 10

T Nov 4 The Medieval and Early Modern transition

TH Nov 6 Readings:
The Open Empire, pp. 224-257.

Week 11

T Nov 11 Reforms and Reformers

TH Nov 13 Readings:
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)**

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

**Week 15**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>T</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Overseas Exploration and the First Contact with the West</td>
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|     |      | **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.