This course is a survey of Chinese history since the seventeenth century. We will explore traditions in politics, social organization, though, religion, and culture since the origins of the Chinese civilization until the mid-seventeenth century when China was conquered by the Manchus. For this course, no previous knowledge of China or of Chinese is expected.

Two books should be purchased (they have been ordered from the college bookstore, and you probably can find cheaper copies on the Internet):


We meet twice a week. Normally the Tuesday class will be a lecture to complement the chapter for that week in Hansen’s The Open Empire, which is a narrative history. You are expected to have done the Hansen reading before Tuesday’s class and may be asked about questions on it.

The Thursday meeting will normally be a class discussion of the corresponding chapter in the Hawai i Reader, a book of historical source readings most translated from Chinese (please bring the source book to class on Thursdays so that we can examine the texts directly as we discuss them). Not only are you to have read the chapters before the class, you are also to keep a reading journal of what you find important and interesting in the selections. This should be typed, 1 page single spaced each week, and handed in at the end of Thursday’s class. Be sure to read the whole item before starting to write on it. Ask yourself: what is the point? How is it connected with what we have read in Hansen and talked about in class? What can we learn from it? (Sometimes the translators’ introduction may be useful to provide background information.) Based on the journal, you are expected to participate actively in discussions, raising your own questions and viewpoints and responding to those of others.

You are also to write one short paper (4-6 pages double spaced) on the topic which you will be given. The paper will count 20 % of the final grade. In addition, there will be a midterm test and a final examination, each counting 25 %. Your Hawai i Reader journal will not be graded each
week, but will be evaluated at midterm and at the end of the semester together with your contribution to the class discussions (25%). Attendance will count 5%; regular attendance is expected, and grades will be reduced for missing more than three classes.

Week 1
Jan.26  Introduction
Jan.28  The Origins of Chinese Civilization

   Reading:  The Open Empire,  Introduction and chap. 1
   Hawai_i Reader,  chaps.1, 2

Week 2
Feb.2,  Feb.4  The State and Society of Zhou

   Reading:  The Open Empire,  chap. 2
   Hawai_i Reader,  chaps. 4, 5, 6, 11

Week 3
Feb.9,  Feb.11  The Flourishing of Philosophy

   Reading:  Hawai_i Reader,  chaps. 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16

Week 4
Feb.16,  Feb.18  The First Centralization of Qin

   Reading:  The Open Empire,  pp. 97-112
   Hawai_i Reader,  chaps. 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24

Week 5
Feb.23,  Feb.25  The Imperial Order of Han

   Reading:  The Open Empire,  chap. 112-149
   Hawai_i Reader,  chaps. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
Week 6
Mar.2, Mar.4  The Age of Division
   Reading: The Open Empire, chap. 4
   Hawai'i Reader, chaps. 38, 40, 42, 43

Week 7
Mar.9, Mar.11 The Golden Age: Tang
   Reading: The Open Empire, chap. 5
   Hawai'i Reader, chaps. 46, 47, 49, 56

Week 8
Mar.16 **Midterm test**
Mar.18  TBA

Spring Break

Week 9
Apr.6, Apr.8 The Medieval Culture and Society
   Reading: The Open Empire, chap. 6
   Hawai'i Reader, chaps. 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55
   **The paper is due** at the beginning of Thursday's class; no journal

Week 10
Apr.13, Apr.15 The Early Modern Transition: Song
   Reading: The Open Empire, chap. 7
   Hawai'i Reader, chaps. 58, 59, 60, 61

Week 11
Apr.20, Apr.22 Economic and Philosophic Reforms
   Reading: Hawai'i Reader, chaps. 62, 63, 64, 66
Week 12
Apr.27, Apr.29  The Mongol Rule: Yuan

*Reading:*  The Open Empire, chaps. 8 and 9
  
  Hawai‘i Reader, chaps. 67, 68, 69

Week 13
May4, May6  The Chinese Revival: Ming

*Reading:*  The Open Empire, chap. 10
  
  Hawai‘i Reader, chaps. 71, 72, 73, 74, 75

Week 14
May11, May13  The Inward Development under the Threat of Aliens

*Reading:*  Hawai‘i Reader, chaps. 77, 78, 79, 80, 81

**Final Exam**