China: Its Heritage and Culture

Syllabus

EAC170 is a basic introduction to the history and culture of traditional China. It does not presume prior knowledge of China or the Chinese language. Although the framework of the course is a chronological survey of Chinese history, we will pause often to examine major issues, institutions, and cultural achievements of pre-modern Chinese society. These will include the geography of China, language in China, major systems of thought (Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism), the nature of the monarchy and the civil service, Tang poetry, Song landscape painting, and China’s encounter with European civilization. The course concludes with a brief review of the transformation of traditional Chinese culture in modern times.

This course counts as a "Humanities" course under the General Education Program. A review of "learning objectives" for such courses is appended below. This course adheres to these objectives. The course also fulfills the "Regions Beyond Europe" category of GenEd.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

1/20, 25, 27  Introduction: China and the Chinese, Social Organization  pp. 3-30
2/1, 3, 8  Origins of Chinese Civilization  pp. 33-58
2/10, 15, 17, 3/1  Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism  pp. 59-82
3/3, 8  The First Empire, Evolution of the Political System  pp. 83-131
3/10  Mid-term
3/15, 17, 22  Early Medieval China, Buddhism, Tang poetry  pp. 135-200
3/24, 29, 31  Neo-Confucianism, Song painting, The Mongols  pp. 201-277
4/5, 7  Early Modern China, The Ming  pp. 281-309
4/12, 14  The Coming of the West  pp. 310-339
4/26  The Manchus and the Qing  pp. 340-377
4/28, 5/3  The Twentieth Century Transformation
Final: Wednesday, May 11, 1-3PM


Things to do for this class:

1) come to class every day; see attendance policy below
2) read the assignments in the textbook by the first day of the week that they are due; If you wish, take notes on assigned readings
3) take notes during lecture
4) ask questions during lecture; relevant questions are ALWAYS welcome
5) review the reading and your notes for the mid-term and final

Grading: Mid-term 33%, Final 33%, class attendance and participation, 34%. There will be no arrangement for missed tests. Numerical scores will be converted to course grades according to the following scale: A=96-100; A-=92-95; B+=89-91; B=86-88; B-=83-85; C+=80-82; C=77-79; C-=74-76; D+=71-73; D=68-70; D-=65-67; E=64-.

Class attendance policy: Attendance will be monitored at each of the twenty-six class meetings. Undocumented absences, at the rate of 1 point per cut, will be deducted from the 33% of the grade devoted to class attendance.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY AND CLASS ETIQUETTE: 1) Cheating will result in automatic dismissal from class with course grade of "E". 2) Students are expected to come to class on time, to remain for the duration of the period, and to comport themselves in a quiet and dignified manner at every class session. Class disruptions are a violation of university policy and constitute rude behavior toward the instructor and other class members. Examples of class disruptions include repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, persisting in speaking-without being recognized, or resorting to physical threats or personal insults. You may bring personal computers to class and use them for note taking only. Use of cell phones in class is not allowed.
Learning Objectives for General Education *Humanities* Courses

Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect.

1. Humanities courses enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods of study, and theories of at least one of the disciplines within the humanities.

Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

2. an understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them

3. an understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university

4. an ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline

5. an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them

6. an understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition and canon

**Regions Beyond Europe:** Approved courses focus on specific cultures (other than those of the United States and Europe) or the world’s regions. Courses emphasize the features and processes whereby cultures and regions gain their specific identity. Approved courses will balance topical focus with chronological breadth. Courses may also engage students in considerations of the “local” as opposed to the “global.”