

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
TOPICS IN WORLD HISTORY:
HISTORY OF CHINA THROUGH FILM

HIST 432 (Section 01)
CRN# 11147
Fall 2014
TR 1:00–2:15 PM
Public Affairs Building Room 307

Instructor: Roger Hart
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course offers an introduction to the history of China from the earliest written documents up to the present, covering major historical events and developments, including Confucianism, Legalism, Neo-Confucianism, and Maoism. We will cover the major historical events, developments, and trends—social, political, economic, military, philosophical, literary, and cultural. One focus of the course will be film. We will critically analyze representations of Chinese history through films such as *Confucius*, *Red Cliff*, *Curse of the Golden Flower*, *The Last Emperor*, *1911*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *Red Sorghum*, *Yellow Earth*, and *Ju Dou*. A second focus of the course will be on primary sources. We will read (in translation) the most important writings from the Chinese tradition, including central ideologies of the state (Confucianism, Legalism, and Neo-Confucianism) and key political writings from modern and contemporary China (Sun Yat-Sen, Chiang Kai-shek, Mao Zedong, and Deng Xiaoping). We will take an interdisciplinary approach in order to better understand these texts in their historical context.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Through successful completion of this course, students will achieve the following:

1. An understanding of the basic facts of Chinese history—important social, political, economic, and cultural features.
2. An ability to summarize and evaluate secondary sources.
3. An ability to summarize and critically analyze primary sources in their historical context.
4. Students will complete a ten-page (double-spaced) critical analysis of a primary source in historical context. The paper should present (i) a well-formulated thesis, (ii) clear supporting arguments, (iii) persuasive evidence for each supporting argument, and (iv) a conclusion that synthesizes the central arguments.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sources of Chinese Tradition, vol. 1, *From Earliest Times to 1600*, ed. William Theodore de Bary et al., 2nd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999). ISBN-10: [0231109393](#). ISBN-13: [978-0231109390](#).

Sources of Chinese Tradition, vol. 2, *From 1600 through the Twentieth Century*, ed. Wm. Theodore de Bary et al., 2nd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000). ISBN-10: [0231112718](#). ISBN-13: [978-0231112710](#).

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). ISBN-10: [0521124336](#). ISBN-13: [978-0521124331](#).

OPTIONAL TEXT:

John R. Trimble, *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*, 3rd ed. ISBN-10: [0205028802](#). ISBN-13:

[978-0205028801](https://www.tsu.edu/978-0205028801).

CLASS ORGANIZATION: Classes will be organized around lectures and discussion. Students are encouraged to ask questions at any time. Students are responsible for all material presented in class and for all assigned readings. The focus of the lectures will be analysis of the films and close readings of the primary sources (selected translations in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*) in their historical context. The secondary sources (Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*) will usually not be discussed in class unless students raise specific questions about the readings. Students are responsible for all material presented in class and all announcements made in class.

All TSU History classes make use of Blackboard. All students need to obtain access to Blackboard. In addition they must have a TSU computer account, an e-mail account linked to Blackboard, and they must have a TSU Blackboard account. Students who do not have a computer or internet access can use computers in the various open labs on campus, or in various branches of the Houston Public Library. All students must have an e-mail account, and must link this e-mail account to Blackboard, and university accounts giving them access to Blackboard in order to function effectively in this course. If you do not have TSU computer accounts, you must acquire them as soon as possible. While you can link any e-mail account to Blackboard, we suggest you get a TSU account.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Please note that the schedule is tentative and is subject to revision as the class proceeds.

Week 1 (August 26 and 28): Introduction—Early China

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, pp. 10–37.

Week 2 (Sept. 2 and 4): Western Zhou (c. 1027–771 BCE) and Spring and Autumn Period (771–453 BCE)

Primary sources

Analects (*Lun yu* 論語, 500?–250? BCE), attributed to Confucius (Kongzi 孔丘, c. 551–479 BCE), selections, trans. in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 41–63.

Week 3 (Sept. 9 and 11): Eastern Zhou / Warring States Period (453–221 BCE)

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, pp. 38–59.

Primary sources

Mencius (*Mengzi* 孟子, 300? to 250? BCE), attributed to Meng Ke 孟軻 (c. 371–289 BCE), selections, trans. in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 112–131.

Week 4 (Sept. 16 and 18): Qin (221–206 BCE) and Han Dynasties (202 BCE–220 CE)

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, pp. 60–85.

Primary sources

Legalists: *Guanzi* 管子 (7th? century BCE to 100? BCE), attributed to Guan Zhong 管仲 (d. 645 BCE); *Book of Lord Shang* (*Shang jun shu* 商君書, c. 350?–200? BCE), attributed to Shang Yang 商鞅 (385–338 BCE); *Han Feizi* 韓非子 (250?–c. 233 BCE), by Han Fei (c. 280–c. 233 BCE); and memorials by Li Si 李斯 (280?–208 BCE). Trans. in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 190–212.

Week 5 (Sept. 23 and 25): Tang Dynasty (617–907)

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, pp. 86–135.

Primary sources

Social and political documents: *House Instructions of Mr. Yan (Yanshi jiaxun)*; Zhangsun Wuji (?-659); and *Great Tang Code (Tang lü)*. Trans. in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 539–64.

Week 6 (Sept. 30 and Oct. 2): Song Dynasty (960–1279)

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, pp. 136–163.

Primary sources

Zhu Xi, *Great Learning by Chapter and Phrase, The Mean by Chapter and Phrase*, and proposals and proclamations. Selections. Trans. in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 720–751.

Week 7 (Oct. 7 and 9): The Qing Dynasty (1644–1911)

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

Documents on the Opium Wars and the Taiping Rebellion, in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, pp. 198–223.

Week 8 (Oct. 14 and 16): Nationalist Revolution

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

Sources of Chinese Tradition, vol. 2, selections.

Week 9 (Oct. 21 and 23): Communist Revolution

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

“Report on an Investigation of the Hunan Peasant Movement”; “The Question of Land Redistribution”; “The Mass Line On New Democracy The Dictatorship of the People’s Democracy.” In *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol 2.

Week 10 (Oct. 28 and 30): Mao Era

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

Mao Zedong, “The Question of Agricultural Cooperation” (July 31, 1955) and “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People.” *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2.

Week 11 (Nov. 4 and 6): Deng Era

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

End of the Cultural Revolution: Zhou Enlai, “Report on the Work of Government” (Delivered on January 13, 1975, at the First Session of the Fourth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China); “Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session Of the 11th Central Committee Of the Communist Party of China” (December 22nd, 1978). *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2.

Week 12 (Nov. 11 and 13): Post-Deng China

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

Xiong Shili, “Manifesto for a Reappraisal of Sinology and the Reconstruction of Chinese Culture”; Mou Zongsan, “The Sensitivity and Steadfastness and Humaneness”; Feng Youlan, “China—An Ancient Nation with a New Mission.” *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, pp. 545–63.

Week 13 (Nov. 18 and 20): China in the Twenty-first Century

Background reading

Ebrey, *Illustrated History of China*, selections.

Primary sources

TBA

Week 14 (Nov. 25): China and Globalization

Readings: TBA

Week 15 (Dec. 2 and 4): Final Paper and Review

Final Examination: TBA, Dec. 6–12.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES:

Class attendance is mandatory.

Quizzes will be given each class to assess students' reading of the assigned primary and secondary sources.

A midterm and a final exam will be given assess students' mastery of the primary and secondary sources, and the lectures. The midterm and final exams are open book and open notes.

Students must complete a ten-page (double-spaced) analysis of a primary source.

The grade will be based on in-class quizzes and class participation (20%), mid-term and final examinations (30%), and a final paper (50%).

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100	C	70-75
A-	88-89	C-	68-69
B+	86-87	D+	66-67
B	80-85	D	60-65
B-	78-79	D-	58-59
C+	76-77	F	0-57

Make-up work will be permitted only for documented emergencies.

Athletes, band members, and members of other outside activities must submit official documentation from their coaches or directors and make arrangements with the instructor prior to any assignments they miss.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

This course has no additional costs.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Grade of I

The grade of "I" is given only when a student's work is satisfactory in quality, but due to reasons beyond his or her control, the work has not been completed. The missing work may be a midterm or final examination, a term paper, or other work. It is not given in lieu of an F. The instructor will stipulate, in writing, at the time the grade is given the conditions under which the "I" may be removed. This temporary grade of "I" is non-punitive and semester hours for the course are not considered in the computation of the quality-point average. Removal must be within one calendar year after the "I" is assigned, or the "I" grade shall become an "F". The grade "I" is not assigned if the student must retake the course. In the event a student who earns a grade of "I" decides to retake the course, the student is required to pay for that course.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students must maintain a high standard of honesty in their academic work. They should avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, especially the following:

- a. Plagiarism. The appropriation of passages, either word for word (or in substance) from the writing of another and the incorporation of these as one's own written work offered for credit.
- b. Collusion. Working with another person in the preparation of notes, themes, reports, or other written work offered for credit unless such collaboration is specially approved in advance by the instructor.
- c. Cheating on an Examination or Quiz. Giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using prepared material in an examination or testing situation. On examinations and quizzes students are expected (a) to remain in the examination room until the examination is finished, and (b) to refrain from talking.
- d. Impersonation. Allowing another person to attend classes, take examinations or to do graded assignments for an enrolled student under his or her name is strictly forbidden.

A student who violates any of the above may incur severe disciplinary action ranging from suspension to expulsion from the University. Specific guidelines will be administered by each dean.

Students with Disabilities:

TSU is in compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities should register with the TSU Office for Disability Services