

Texas Southern University

HISTORY OF IMPERIAL CHINA

HIST 361 - 01 12488 Fall 2020 Online (asynchronous)

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural history of China from the earliest written records (about 1200 BCE) up through the end of the imperial period (1911 CE). Three hours of lecture per week. Prerequisites HIST 231 and HIST 232

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will cover the major historical events, developments, and trends—social, political, economic, military, philosophical, literary, and cultural. The focus of the course will be primary sources. We will read (in translation) the most important writings from the Chinese tradition. These include the following: Shang dynasty oracle bone inscriptions (used for divination); political ideologies, including Confucianism, Legalism, Daoism and Neo-Confucianism; religion, including various forms of Buddhism; dynastic histories, including historical biographies; ritual manuals; critical philological studies; and political debates. We will take an interdisciplinary approach, integrating history with literary studies, philosophy, and anthropology, in order to better understand these texts in their historical context.

Please note: This syllabus may be revised over the course of the semester. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced on Blackboard.

III. PREREQUISITES

HIST 231 and HIST 232.

IV. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic facts of Chinese history—important social, political, economic, and cultural features.
2. Summarize and critically analyze secondary sources.
3. Summarize and critically analyze primary sources in their historical context.
4. Students will complete a ten-page (double-spaced) critical essay on one aspect of imperial China (to be specified), analyzed 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.

V. CLASS LOCATION AND ORGANIZATION

This class is **asynchronous**: students may log-in at any time that is convenient, as long as assignments are completed by the deadlines. Log-in information for Blackboard is as follows:

- Blackboard address: <https://texasu.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>
- Student Username: last name + first name initial + last 4 digits of T#
- Student password is: 6 digit birth date (MMDDYY)

Students are responsible for all assigned readings and for all material presented. In online classes, students must demonstrate attendance by completing at least one assignment in the first ten days of

class. For attendance purposes, students *must* log on at least once per week (the week begins on Sunday at 12:00 AM and ends on Saturday at 11:59 PM).

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS

Required texts The following texts are required for the course:

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

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

Note: Please make sure you purchase the second edition of these textbooks—use the ISBN-13 to make sure that you are purchasing the correct edition.

Recommended texts In addition, students should consider consulting the following texts, which will be available through Blackboard and the TSU Library:

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

John R. Trimble, *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*, 3rd ed. (Boston: Prentice Hall, 2011). ISBN-10: 0205028802. ISBN-13: 978-0205028801.

VII. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course is offered online only, and therefore students are required to use the following technology:

Computers Due to the nature of this course, all students will need access to a computer, internet connection, word processing software, and a PDF reader. Students who do not own a laptop or desktop computer can access computers on the TSU campus at various computer labs. For TSU computer lab locations and hours of operation, see <http://www.tsu.edu/about/administration/office-of-information-technology/academic-technology/index.html>. Students who are off-campus can access computers through local branches of public libraries.

All students must have a TSU computer account, an e-mail account linked to Blackboard, and a TSU Blackboard account. If you do not have a TSU computer account, you must acquire one as soon as possible.

Blackboard Assignments and communications will be through Blackboard, available at <https://texasu.blackboard.com>

Students are required to check Blackboard daily.

E-mail Students are required to check their TSU e-mail daily.

Student engagement is mandatory. Students are responsible for logging onto the course regularly and completing assignments in accord with the guidelines posted. Students are responsible for reading all course announcements, readings, and materials presented online. Students are responsible for completing all assignments within the timeframes given. As this is a 3-credit course, students must be prepared to spend at least 14 hours per week on class readings and assignments.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week 1. (Aug. 19–21): Shang Dynasty (c. 1600–c. 1027 BCE): Oracle Bones

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 10–30.

Primary sources: “The Oracle Bone Inscriptions of the Late Shang Dynasty,” chap. 1 of de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 3–23.

Week 2. (Aug. 24–28): Western Zhou (c. 1027–771 BCE): Confucian Classics

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 30–37.

Primary sources: *Classic of Documents* (*Shang shu* 尚書 or *Shu jing* 書經, 6th? c. BCE to 4th c. CE) and *Classic of Poetry* (*Shi jing* 詩經, 1000? to 600? BCE), selections, trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 24–40.

First assignment due.

Note: Begin reading *Analects* (Week 3).

Week 3. (Aug. 31–Sept. 4): Eastern Zhou (771–256 BCE) / Spring and Autumn Period (771–453 BCE): *Analects* of Confucius

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 38–46.

Primary sources: *Analects* (*Lun yu* 論語, 500?–250? BCE), attributed to Confucius (Kongzi 孔丘, c. 551–479 BCE), selections, trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 41–63.

Film: Confucius

Week 4. (Sept. 8–11): Eastern Zhou / Warring States Period (453–221 BCE): Daoism

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 46–59.

Primary sources: *Classic of the Way and Virtue* (*Dao de jing* 道德經, 3rd? century BCE), attributed to Laozi 老子 (n.d.), selections, trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 77–87.

Zhuangzi 莊子 (350? to 50? BCE), attributed to Zhuang Zhou 莊周 (fl. 320? BCE), selections, trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 95–104.

Week 5. (Sept. 14–18): Eastern Zhou / Warring States Period (cont.): Mencius

Primary sources: *Mencius* (*Mengzi* 孟子, 300? to 250? BCE), attributed to Meng Ke 孟軻 (c. 371–289 BCE), selections, trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 112–131.

Week 6. (Sept. 21–25): Qin Dynasty (221–206 BCE): Legalism

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 60–63.

Primary sources: *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 de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 190–212.

Recommended reading: Trimble, *Writing with Style*.

Week 7. (Sept. 28–Oct. 2): Han Dynasty (202 BCE–8 CE and 25–220 CE)

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 63–85.

Primary sources: *Records of the Grand Historian* (*Shi ji* 史記, c. 100 BCE), completed by Sima Qian 司馬遷 (145?–86? BCE). Trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 227–234 and 278–282.

Dong Zhongshu 董仲舒 (195?–105? BCE), *Luxuriant Gems of the Spring and Autumn Annals* (*Chun qiu fan lu* 春秋繁露). Selections. Trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 292–305.

Outline due.

Midterm examination.

Week 8. (Oct. 5–9): Period of Disunity (220–581 CE): Buddhism

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 86–107.

Primary sources: Mouzi 牟子, *Disposing of Error* (*Li huo lun* 理惑論); writings of Huiyuan; *Fanwang Sutra*; Jizang, *The Profound Meaning of the Three Treatises*; Xuanzang, Confirmation of the Consciousness-only System; Lotus Sutra. Trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 415–55.

Week 9. (Oct. 12–16): Sui (581–617) and Tang (617–907) Dynasties

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 108–135.

Primary sources: *House Instructions of Mr. Yan* (Yanshi jiaxun 顏氏家訓); (?–659); *Great Tang Code (Tang lü)*.
Trans. in de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 539–64.

Han Yu (768–824), *Essentials of the Moral Way (Xuandao)*, selections, and other writings. Emperor Wuzong's (r. 841–46) edict to suppress Buddhism (845). In de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 568–86.

Writing sample due.

Week 10. (Oct. 19–23): Song Dynasty (960–1279): Zhu Xi's Neo-Confucianism

Background reading: Ebrey, *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 de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 720–751.

Week 11. (Oct. 26–30): Yuan and Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 164–189 and 190–219.

Primary sources: Founding of the Ming: Ming Taizu, “August Ming Ancestral Instruction”; selections from the Ming Code, Commandments, and Great Pronouncements. In de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 779–799.

Wang Yangming (1472–1528), selected writings; In de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, pp. 842–855.

First draft due.

Week 12. (Nov. 2–6): Qing Dynasty (1644–1911)

Background reading: Ebrey, *History of China*, pp. 230–261.

Primary sources: Dai Zhen (1724–1777), “Letter to Shi Zhongming Concerning Scholarship” and “Letter in Reply to Advanced Scholar Peng Yunchu.” In de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, pp. 41–52.

Week 13. (Nov. 9–13): Late Qing Dynasty

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

Rewritten papers due.

Week 14. (Nov. 14–19): Final Examinations

Final Examination (date and time to be arranged by TSU Registrar).

IX. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

Grading policies are as follows:

1. Students must complete a ten-page (double-spaced) final term paper (as described on the first page of this syllabus).
2. Students must complete an outline, short writing sample, first draft, and final draft for this final term paper.
3. The final course grade will be based on the midterm examination (20%), final examination (30%), and the components of the final term paper, as follows: outline (5%), short writing sample (10%), first draft (15%), and final draft (20%).

4. Final course grades will be assigned as follows: A+ 97-100; A 93-96; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F below 60.
5. Make-up work will be permitted for documented emergencies. Students should provide documentation within one week of an absence. Athletes, band members, and members of other outside activities should submit official documentation from their coaches or directors within one week of an absence.

According to TSU policies for online courses, **students who do not submit the first assignment by August 31 (Official Day of Record for Fall Semester 2020) will be dropped from the course for non-attendance.**

X. ADDITIONAL COSTS

This course has no additional costs.

XI. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity The *Texas Southern University 2019-2020 Undergraduate Catalog* states the following:

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

- **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.
- **Collusion.** Working with another person in the preparation of notes, themes, reports, or other written work offered for credit unless such collaboration is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.
- **Cheating on an Examination or Quiz.** Giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using prepared material in an examination or testing situation is expressly forbidden. On examinations and quizzes students are expected (a) to remain in the examination room until the examination is finished, (b) to refrain from talking, and (c) to refrain from bringing notes and books into the examination room.
- **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 violator of any of the above offenses will incur severe disciplinary action ranging from suspension to expulsion from the University. Specific guidelines will be administered by each dean.

See <http://www.tsu.edu/registrar/pdf/2019-2020-undergraduate-catalog.pdf>, pp. 32-33 (emphasis in original).

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.

Students with Disabilities Texas Southern University (TSU), Student Accessibility Services Office (SASO) provides individualized, reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students who may need accommodations are asked to contact SASO at 713-313-4210 or email DisabilityServices@tsu.edu. The SASO office is located in the Student Health Center, Room 140. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please note Instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations without approved verification from SASO. Please schedule an appointment during office hours to discuss approved accommodation provisions.

TSU and SASO are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment. For additional information, please contact the SASO.