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312 LeConte Hall

Office Hours:  
Tuesday 3:30-5  
Or By Appointment

## History 3661 HISTORY OF CHINA I: ORIGINS AND FOUNDATIONS, 4000 BCE-800 CE

*This reading- and writing-intensive course is a survey of the ancient, classical, and medieval periods of Chinese history. Assignments will emphasize the interpretation and analysis of primary source texts in translation.*

*Textbooks:* Available at the UGA Bookstore, or buy them cheaper on the Internets.  
Benn, Charles. *China's Golden Age: Everyday Life in The Tang Dynasty*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

De Bary, Wm. Theodore. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. 2nd edition. Vol. I. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.

Hansen, Valerie. *The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2000.

*Reader/PDFs:* Much of the required reading for this class consists of short selections from Chinese primary sources in translation, along with some key works of secondary scholarship. You have three choices: (1) you may purchase a course reader that contains all these reading selections at Bel-Jean downtown; (2) you may individually download these reading selections as PDF files from the course WebCT page, where readings are organized week by week; (3) you may purchase a blank CD-R, and I will burn all of these files for you. If you want hard copies of these documents, please do the environmentally sensitive thing: print them double-sided and recycle them at the end of the semester.

*Web Materials and Email:* We will be using the WebCT system. I will be emailing details on how to use the course website after the first class meeting. I will *only* send course-related email to your WebCT mail account, so you are responsible for checking your WebCT inbox regularly for course-related messages and announcements.

*A Warning:* You and you alone are responsible for knowing how to adhere to the code of academic honesty. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. If I suspect you have violated the code of academic honesty, you will be subjected to the university's official adjudication process. UGA's official policy on academic honesty can be found at:

[http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm)

***Course Requirements and Policies:***

**Midterm (20%) and Final (30%) Examinations:** These will combine short-answer identifications and short thematic essays. Subject matter will be drawn primarily from lectures and sourcebook readings, with much less emphasis upon the Hansen textbook. Hence, it is imperative to attend class regularly and to read all assignments.

Make-up exams will not be permitted without an official excuse from the Student Affairs office. If you fail to appear for an examination, you will be dropped from the course with a grade of withdraw failing (WF).

Each and every time you misspell the word "emperor" on an exam, I will subtract one point from your exam grade. Each and every time you misspell the words "Confucius," "Confucian," or "Confucianism" on an exam, I will subtract one point from your exam grade. Each and every time you misspell an asterisked term from the termlists, I will subtract one point from your exam grade.

**Two Five-Page Analytical Essays (20%, 20%).** First essay due 9/14, second essay due on 11/14. You will submit them at the beginning of class. No extensions whatsoever will be granted, and late and sloppy work will not be tolerated. For every 24 hours past the due date and time, you will be penalized one letter grade. If you submit any written work 5 days past the due date, or do not submit it at all, you will *automatically* receive a course grade of withdraw failing (WF).

These essays should offer *your own* critical analysis of *one* (not two or three) of the translated original Chinese primary sources from the de Bary sourcebooks, or from the Reader/PDFs. Suggested paper topics will be provided, but feel free to write about a text which interests you, as long as you clear it with me first, at least 7 days before the essay is due. I will give you much more detailed information in a few weeks.

I will be happy to read and critique the first ten paper drafts I receive, as long as you submit them to me at least seven days before the due date. In the past, many of my students have benefited from the draft process.

**Class Attendance (10%):** Your most important responsibility is to attend class regularly. Doing so will also benefit your grades on the midterm and final exams, since essay questions will be drawn from my lectures. I will take attendance daily, and all absences are considered unexcused unless I decide otherwise. All those who neglect to sign the attendance sheet will be considered absent. Latecomers, nap-takers, and sleepers will be considered absent. Please turn off all pagers, cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices before entering the classroom.

After your second unexcused absence from class, I will begin deducting *one percentage point* from your final course grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. If your course grade is on the borderline between A- and B+, or B- and C+, repeated absenteeism will cause you to receive the lower final grade for the semester.

## Syllabus

### Week 1

8/17 Introduction to the Course: What is Chinese Civilization?

### Week 2

8/22 Geography and Language: Diversity and Divergence

*Assignment:* Explore this website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/geo/land.htm>

*Reader/PDF:* Ramsey, *The Languages of China*, 19-40

8/24 The Sinitic Neolithic: The Problem of Origins

*Reader/PDF:* K.C. Chang, "China on the Eve of the Historical Period," in Michael Loewe and Edward L. Shaughnessy, Eds. *The Cambridge History of Ancient China*, 37-73

### Week 3

8/29 The Shang Dynasty: The Politics of Ritual

*Reading:* Hansen 17-40; de Bary 5-19 ("Oracle Bone Inscriptions of the Late Shang Dynasty")

*Assignment:* Explore this website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/archae/2fuhmain.htm>

8/31 The Western Zhou Dynasty: The Mandate of Heaven

*Reading:* Hansen 41-53; de Bary 29-37 ("The Classic of Documents")

*Reader/PDF:* "Zhou Bronze Inscriptions" and "The Book of Songs"

### Week 4

9/5 The Spring and Autumn Period: Sanctioned Violence

*Reader/PDF:* Mark Edward Lewis, *Sanctioned Violence in Early China* 15-52; "The Battle between Jin and Chu" (in Ebrey 14-16)

9/7 The Warring States Period: Coming Through Slaughter

*Reading:* Hansen 55-67

*Reader/PDF:* "Encountering Sorrow (*Li sao*)" by Qu Yuan, trans. David Hawkes

### Week 5

9/12 Intellectual Foundations 1: Kongzi/Confucius, Mozi, Zhuangzi

*Reading:* Hansen 67-89; de Bary 44-63 (the *Analects*), 64-76 (Mozi), 95-111 (Zhuangzi).

*Note:* When you read these selections in de Bary, please skip the editor's introductions, which will seriously distort your understanding of these texts. Please approach these texts on your own terms.

## **FIRST ESSAY DUE 9/14 IN CLASS**

**9/14** Intellectual Foundations 2: Mengzi/Mencius, Xunzi, Han Feizi

**Reading:** Hansen 89-95; de Bary 114-158 (Mencius), 159-183 (Xunzi), 199-206 (Han Feizi)

**Note:** *When you read these selections in de Bary, please skip the editor's introductions, which will seriously distort your understanding of these texts. Please approach these texts on your own terms.*

### **Week 6**

**9/19** The Qin Dynasty: Creation of the Early Imperial Order

**Reading:** Hansen 97-112

**Reader/PDF:** "Penal Servitude in Qin Law" (in Ebrey 51-53); Burton Watson, trans. *Records of the Grand Historian*, 35-83 ("Basic Annals of the First Emperor of the Qin" by Sima Qian). **Note:** *Focus on pp. 41-63, 74-83, skim the rest*

**9/21** The Han Conquest: Consolidation of the Early Imperial Order

**Reading:** Hansen 113-117.

**Reader/PDF:** Burton Watson, trans. *Records of the Grand Historian*, 51-88 ("Basic Annals of Han Gaozu" by Sima Qian).

### **Week 7**

**9/26** The Han Dynasty: Territorial Expansion and Imperial Autocracy

**Reading:** Hansen 126-130

**Reader/PDF:** Sima Qian, "Letter in Reply to Ren An"; "The World Beyond China" (in Ebrey 54-56); "The Shang-lin fu" by Sima Xiangru)

**9/28** The Han Dynasty: Economic Foundations of the First Empire

**Reading:** Hansen 117-126, 130-5, 142-3; de Bary 353-66

**Reader/PDF:** Michael Loewe, *Everyday Life in Early Imperial China*, 128-179.

### **Week 8**

**10/3** The Han Dynasty: Huang-Lao Learning and Intellectual Syncretism

**Reading:** Hansen 135-142, 144-9; de Bary 241-63, 268-73

**Reader/PDF:** Donald Lopez, Jr., *Religions of China in Practice*, 251-60 ("Record of the Feng and Shan Sacrifices")

**10/5** The Han Dynasty: "Confucian" "Orthodoxy"?

**Reader/PDF:** Michael Nylan, *The Five "Confucian" Classics*, 1-41

### **Week 9**

**10/10** IN-CLASS MIDTERM (covers Weeks 1-8)

### Week 9

10/12 The Age of Disunion: North and South, Aristocrats and Barbarians

*Reader/PDF:* Moss Roberts, trans. *Three Kingdoms* 3-23, 93-119, 236-48; John Wills, *Mountain of Fame* 100-113 ("Zhuge Liang")

### Week 10

10/17 The Age of Disunion: Art and Literature Unleashed

*Reader/PDF:* Owen 262-73 (Northern Poets), 312-23 (Tao Qian and Xie Lingyun); Ebrey 109-111 ("Cultural Differences between the North and South")

10/19 Religious Daoism: Ways of Salvation

*Reading:* Hansen 184-9

*Reader/PDF:* "Ge Hong's Autobiography"; Donald Lopez, Jr., *Religions of China in Practice*, pp. 149-155 ("Body Gods and Inner Vision"), 268-277 ("The Purification Ritual of the Luminous Perfected"); Livia Kohn, *The Taoist Experience* 71-80 ("The Transformations of Laozi"), 97-100 ("Precepts and Prescriptions"), 135-41 ("Breathing for Life"), 163-8 ("The Structure of the Body")

### Week 11

10/24 Chinese Buddhism: Core Doctrines and Practices

*Reading:* Hansen 153-61; de Bary 415-29 ("The Introduction of Buddhism")

*Reader/PDF:* Donald Lopez, Jr., *Buddhism in Practice* 52-58 ("Consecrating the Buddha"); Pauline Yu et al., *Ways with Words* 113-8 ("Two Translations of the Heart Sutra")

10/26 FALL BREAK: Enjoy your purely intellectual pursuits.

### Week 12

10/31 Chinese Buddhism: Accommodation and Assimilation

*Reading:* Hansen 162-70; de Bary 444-55 ("The Lotus Sutra"); 494-504 ("The Platform Sutra")

*Reader/PDF:* Donald Lopez, Jr., *Buddhism in Practice* 455-72 ("Daily Life in the Assembly"), 592-602 ("Death-bed Testimonials of the Pure Land Faithful")

11/2 The Sui Dynasty: Reunification of the Empire

*Reading:* Hansen 175-84, 191-6

*Reader/PDF:* Arthur Wright, *The Sui Dynasty*, 82-107.

### Week 13

11/7 The Tang Conquest: Consolidation and Expansion

*Reading:* Hansen 196-219; Benn 1-69

*Reader/PDF:* "Emperor Taizong on Government;" "The Tang Legal Code"

11/9 The Tang Dynasty: The Age of Aristocracy

*Reading:* Benn 71-147

*Reader/PDF:* David Johnson, *The Medieval Chinese Oligarchy*, 121-152

SECOND ESSAY DUE IN CLASS 11/14

#### Week 14

11/14 The Tang Dynasty: Celebrating a Cosmopolitan Culture

*Reading:* Benn 148-241

*Reader/PDF:* Edward H. Schafer, *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand* 7-39

11/16 The Tang Dynasty: The Golden Age of Chinese Literature

*Reader/PDF:* Stephen Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature* 385-404, 420-428, 433-440 (poems by Wang Wei, Meng Haoran, Li Bo, and Du Fu); "Yingying's Story" by Yuan Zhen, 540-9

#### Week 15

11/21 Thanksgiving Break: Class Canceled

11/23 Thanksgiving Break: Class Canceled

#### Week 16

11/28 The Tang Dynasty: The An Lushan Rebellion and Its Aftermath

*Reading:* Hansen 221-9; Benn 243-294

*Reader/PDF:* "Song of Lasting Pain" by Bo Juyi; David Graff, *Medieval Chinese Warfare* 205-223

11/30 The Tang Dynasty: Intellectual Diversity and Nativist Reaction

*Reading:* Hansen 229-45; de Bary I 568-586 (Han Yu)

*Reader/PDF:* Peter K. Bol, *This Culture of Ours* 108-147

#### Week 17

12/5 The Tang-Song Transition: The Early Modern Transformation

*Reading:* Hansen 261-8

*Reader/PDF:* Robert Hartwell, "Demographic, Political, and Social Transformations of China, 750-1550," 365-442

*You can access this article through the JSTOR database at GALILEO:*

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0073-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0073-548%28198212%2942%3A2%3C365%3ADPASTO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L)

[548%28198212%2942%3A2%3C365%3ADPASTO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0073-548%28198212%2942%3A2%3C365%3ADPASTO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L)

12/7 Conclusions and Review

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 12 December 7:00 - 10:00 pm**