

EALC 0020

Introduction to East Asia: China

- History & Tradition Sector -

Fall 2024

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:45-2:44 pm
Fisher-Bennett Hall 419

This syllabus is subject to change.
See the Canvas site for the most up-to-date schedule and readings.

Instructor: Prof. Hsiao-wen Cheng

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Office: Williams Hall 856

Office Hours: Make an appointment here: <https://calendly.com/hscheng/virtual-15-mins>, or email me your availabilities.

TFs:

Sarah Brooker (205)

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Office Hour: Thurs 2-3 pm

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Jay Zhang (203)

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Course Description

This course introduces Chinese civilization from ancient to modern times. In addition to the political, social, economic, and intellectual developments, this course will also look at Chinese history from the perspective of women, the frontiers, and oceanic trade networks. It challenges the notion of “civilization” and the imagination of history as linear and monolithic. The lectures and readings will include some of the most up-to-date scholarship in Chinese and East Asian history. The recitations and short paper assignments are designed for students to practice historical analysis of primary sources.

No prior knowledge of China or Chinese languages is required.

Course Website: <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1813438>

Course Assignments

In-class quizzes, 30%

- ♦ Four questions (true-false, multiple choices, and/or short answers) on lecture and readings in the last ten minutes of each lecture, except for the first and the last days of classes and guest lectures. Sixteen quizzes in total. Count the best twelve.

Three short papers, 10%, 15%, 25%

- ♦ 1200-1500 words each. Each paper will focus on the analysis of a specific primary source or a related set of sources. Paper prompts will be distributed three weeks before the due date.
- ♦ To encourage continuous improvement, your best paper weighs 25% and the second best 15%.
- ♦ Punctuality matters for the evaluation of all assignments. **If you need an extension, email your TF before the deadline, explain your reason, and propose a reasonable new due date.**

Participation in recitation sessions, 20%

- ♦ Active participation means: Demonstrate familiarity with the readings, share your thoughts, and respond to the TF's and other classmates' questions and comments.
- ♦ Students are expected to finish the required readings before the Friday recitation; bring the texts and your notes to the session and be prepared to engage in discussion. Your TF will announce the required readings for Friday recitation each week by Wednesday.
- ♦ Most of the readings for Friday recitations are what historians call "primary sources" (sources produced in the historical time in question). The major goal of recitation sessions is to practice analyzing primary sources, instead of reviewing lecture content.
- ♦ Quizzes or other activities may be conducted in individual recitations. Please pay attention to your TF's announcements throughout the semester.
- ♦ Everyone has one free absence from Friday recitation sessions. Students should submit Course Absence Notice to their TFs for all absences.

Policies

- Students must turn in all the three papers, take more than 10 of the in-class quizzes, and attend more than 7 of the recitation sessions in order to pass this class.
- Electronic devices are only allowed in class to access course materials and to take notes. **Internet must be turned off on your devices during class time.**
- If you submit a plagiarized work, you will fail the assignment and the class. All plagiarism cases will be forwarded to the Center for Community Standards and Accountability. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor *before* submitting any work. See also the university's **Code of Academic Integrity** at: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>
- Turning in works produced by generative AI or another person as one's own is also considered plagiarism.

Wellness at Penn: <https://wellness.upenn.edu>

Call **Student Health and Counseling** at **215-746-WELL** (9355) to schedule an appointment.

Counseling drop-in services: Students can drop-in to the Student Health and Counseling office (3624 Market Street) at any time during regular business hours without an appointment for counseling support.

Students can also visit trained counseling professionals at various locations across campus through the **Let's Talk** program.

Weingarten Center (weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu) offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. **To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235.** The office is located in Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

Academic Support

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Undergraduates can take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract formats. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester.

Disability Services

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services. Students with a disability or medical condition can request reasonable accommodations through the Weingarten Center website. Disability Services determines accommodations on an individualized basis through an interactive process, including a meeting with the student and a review of their disability documentation. Students who have approved accommodations are encouraged to notify their faculty members and share their accommodation letters at the start of each semester. Students can contact Disability Services by calling 215-573-9235.

Center for East Asian Studies (ceas.sas.upenn.edu) hosts events and lectures on East Asia, Inner Asia, and Southeast Asia. Subscribe to CEAS mailing list [here](#).

Required Texts:

- ♦ Patricia B. Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, **3rd edition** (Cambridge University Press, 2022). **[CIHC]**
 - \$22.50 Used Print Rental, \$33.74 Used Print at Penn Bookstore
 - Using the 2nd edition (published in 2010) is okay, but the page numbers in this syllabus are based on the 3rd edition.
- ♦ Patricia B. Ebrey, ed., *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, **2nd edition** (New York: Free Press, 1993). **[Sourcebook]**
 - Available in Library eReserves and AbeBooks.com (used, from \$6.23)
- ♦ Victor H. Mair *et al.*, eds., *Hawai'i Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005). **[HR]**
 - Available in Library eReserves
- ♦ Other texts on Canvas.



Schedule

Week 1

Aug 28 Introduction

Aug 30 Recitation

Readings:

- Two short essays in *Roundtable: Decolonizing Chinese History*, *The Historical Journal* 67/1 (2024) – You can find the other interesting essays in the same volume [here](#).
 - Gina Anne Tam, “Introduction: Why ‘Decolonizing Chinese History?’”
 - James A. Millward, “How ‘Chinese Dynasties’ Periodization Works with the ‘Tribute System’ and ‘Sinicization’ to Erase Diversity and Euphemize Colonialism in Historiography of China”

Week 2

Sept 2 LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

Sept 4 Shang and Western Zhou

Textbook:

- The Origins of Chinese Civilization (CIHC, pp.23, 25–39)

Quiz 1

Sept 6 Recitation

Primary sources (in English translation):

- Late Shang Divination Records (Sourcebook #1), Shang Dynasty Oracle-Bone Inscriptions (HR #1)
- Shang and Zhou Ritual Bronze Inscriptions (HR #2)
- Milfoil-Divination (HR #4), Hexagrams in *The Book of Changes* (Sourcebook #3)
- Heaven’s Mandate (HR #5), The Metal Bound Box (Sourcebook #2)
- Songs and Poems (Sourcebook #4), The *Odes* (HR #6)

Week 3

Sept 9 Eastern Zhou (Spring and Autumn & Warring States)

Textbook:

- Philosophical Foundations (CIHC, pp.40–63)

Quiz 2

Sept 11 Early Chinese Writing System (Guest lecture by Prof. Adam Smith)

Sept 13 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Confucius and the Birth of Chinese Philosophy (HR #7)
- The Challenge of Mo Zi (HR #8)
- Mencius’s Defense of Confucianism (HR #9)

- The Great Learning, Doctrine of the Mean, and Five Forms of Conduct (HR #10)
- Xun Zi and the Confucian Way (HR #18)
- The Tradition of the *Daode jing* (HR #12)
- Zhuang Zi (HR #13)
- Han Fei Zi and His Antecedents (HR #21), Legalist Teachings (Sourcebook #8)
- The World of the *Zuo zhuan* (HR #11), The Battle between Jin and Chu (Sourcebook #5)
- Two Avengers (Sourcebook #9)
- The Lyrics of Chu and the Aesthetic of Shamanism (HR #15)

Week 4

Handing out Paper One topics

Sept 16 The First Emperor of Qin and His Tomb (Guest lecture by Prof. Nancy Steinhardt)

Textbook:

- The Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire (CIHC, pp.64-68)

Sept 18 The Han Empire & The Three Kingdoms

Textbook:

- The Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire (CIHC, pp.68-89)

Quiz 3

Sept 20 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Penal Servitude in Qin Law (Sourcebook #11), The Laws of the Qin before the Empire (HR #23)
- The Rise and Fall of the Qin Empire (HR #24)
- Huang-Lao (HR #25)
- Heaven, Earth, and Man (Sourcebook #13)
- The Rationalism of Wang Chong (HR #30)
- The World Beyond China (Sourcebook #12), The Xiongnu, Raiders from the Steppe (HR #27)
- The Debate on Salt and Iron (Sourcebook #14)
- The Classic of Filial Piety (Sourcebook #15)
- Women's Virtues and Vices (Sourcebook #17), Admonitions for Women (HR #31)

Week 5

Sept 23 Intellectual and Religious Movements in Early Medieval China

Group One: Museum Tour. Meet at Penn Museum Kress Entrance at 1:45pm. (Read "Penn Student Trip Guide" before going)

Group Two: Come to class as usual

Textbook:

- Buddhism; Daoist Religion (CIHC, pp.103-113)

Quiz 4

Sept 25 Intellectual and Religious Movements in Early Medieval China

Group Two: Museum Tour. Meet at Penn Museum Kress Entrance at 1:45pm. (Read “Penn Student Trip Guide” before going)

Group One: Come to class as usual

Textbook:

- Buddhism; Daoist Religion (CIHC, pp.103-113)

Quiz 4

Sept 27 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Legends of Confucius (HR #35)
- Huangfu Mi, Preface to and the Biographies from *Accounts of High-minded Men* (HR #37)
- The Seven Worthies of the Bamboo Grove (HR #38)
- Ge Hong's Autobiography (Sourcebook 91-96)
- Buddhist Doctrines and Practices (Sourcebook 97-104)
- Buddhism and Indigenous Chinese Culture (HR #43)
- Ghost Stories and Demons (Sourcebook 105-108)
- Lu Bao, “On the Money God” (HR #39)
- Early-Medieval Stories of Filial Piety (HR #44)
- Cultural Differences between the North and the South (Sourcebook 109-111)

Week 6

Sept 30 Northern and Southern Dynasties

Textbook:

- Regional Regimes (CIHC, pp.90-103)

Quiz 5

Oct 2

Sui and Tang

Textbook:

- A Cosmopolitan Empire (CIHC, pp.114-139)

Quiz 6

Oct 4 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Primary sources (No recitation session):

- Emperor Taizong on Effective Government (Sourcebook #25)
- The Tang Legal Code (Sourcebook #26)
- The Errors of Geomancy (Sourcebook #27)
- The Examination System (Sourcebook #30)
- Tang Poems as Vehicles for Ideas (HR #50)
- Dou Yi, a Mid-Tang Businessman (HR #51)
- Family Business (Sourcebook #29)
- A Pilgrim's Visit to the Five Terraces Mountains (Sourcebook #31)

- Han Yu, “A Memorial on the Relic of the Buddha” (HR #52), “The Original Way” (HR #53)
- Late-Tang Foreign Relations: The Uyghur Crisis (HR #55)
- Political and Economic Problems concerning Buddhism (HR #56)

Week 7

PAPER ONE DUE 11:59PM, MONDAY, OCT. 7 (Canvas – Assignments)

Oct 7 The Multi-State System: Song, Liao, Jin, and Xi Xia

Textbook:

- Shifting South (CIHC, pp.140-171)

Quiz 7

Oct 9 Song-Jin-Yuan Religions and Intellectual History

Textbook:

- Inner Asian Rule (CIHC 172-199)

Quiz 8

Oct 11 Recitation

Primary sources:

- The Tanguts and Their Relations with the Han Chinese (Sourcebook #32)
- Wang Anshi, Sima Guang, and Emperor Shenzong (Sourcebook #35)
- Book of Rewards and Punishments (Sourcebook #33)
- Precepts of the Perfect Truth Daoist Sect (Sourcebook #34)
- Rules for the Fan Lineage’s Charitable Estate (Sourcebook #36)
- Ancestral Rites (Sourcebook #37)
- Women and the Problems They Create (Sourcebook #38)
- Zhu Xi’s Conversations with His Disciplines (Sourcebook #40)
- The Attractions of the Capital (Sourcebook #41)

Secondary source:

- Patricia Ebrey, “Women, Money, and Class: Sima Guang and Song Neo-Confucian Views on Women,” *Papers on Society and Culture in Early Modern China* (1992)

Week 8

Oct 14 Song-Yuan Economic History (Guest lecture by Dr. Brian Vivier)

Reading:

- Valerie Hansen, “The Beijing Qingming Scroll and Its Significance for the Study of Chinese History,” pp. 1-5 (Canvas). Image of the Qingming Scroll (Song): <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/song-scroll/song.html>

Oct 16 The Mongol Empire and the Yuan Dynasty (Guest lecture by Dr. Dotno Pount)

Reading (primary sources):

- Two Pictures of Qubilai (Canvas)

Oct 18 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Marco Polo, “The Glories of Kinsay” (Canvas)
- A Schedule for Learning (Sourcebook #45)
- A Mongol Governor (Sourcebook #44)
- A Clerk Promoted to Official under the Mongols (*Chinese Funerary Biographies*, pp.158-171)
- A Mongol Rising to the Defense of the Realm (*Chinese Funerary Biographies*, pp.172-181)

Secondary source:

- Lina Nie, “Before the Storm: A Transrealm History of the Decades Leading Up to the First Mongol Invasion of Japan,” *Monumenta Nipponia* 78/2 (2023): 157–187.

Week 9

Handing out Paper Two topics

Oct 21 Zhu Yuanzhang and the Ming: A New Era of Autocracy

Textbook:

- The Limits of Autocracy (CIHC, pp.200–231)

Quiz 9

Oct 23 Ming Culture, Economy, and the Myth of Zheng He

Reading:

- Ruth Mostern, “China’s Age of Seafaring,” in Naomi Standen ed., *Demystifying China: New Understandings of Chinese History* (2013), pp.109–116.

Quiz 10

Oct 25 Recitation

Primary sources:

- The Pearl-Sewn Shirt (Canvas)
- Concubines (Sourcebook #55)
- Widows Loyal unto Death (Sourcebook #56)
- In Praise of Martyrs: Widow-Suicide in Late-Imperial China (HR #72)
- Shen Cheng, “A Requiem for My Daughter Zhen” (HR #79)
- Two Philosophers (Sourcebook #57)
- Wang Yangming, “Inquiry on the *Great Learning*” (HR #71)
- A Censor Accuses a Eunuch (Sourcebook #58)
- Schools of Civil Service in the Ming Dynasty (HR #75)

Week 10

Oct 28 Early and High Qing

Textbook:

- Manchus and Imperial Expansion (CIHC, pp.232-253)

Quiz 11

Oct 30 Qing & Inner Asia (Guest lecture by Prof. Christopher Atwood)

Readings:

- READ THIS FIRST: Introduction to the readings (Canvas)
- M. Sanjdorj, trans Urgunge Onon, *Manchu Chinese Colonial Rule in Northern Mongolia* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1980), pp. 21-39 and 83-96. (Canvas)
- Alice W. Seddon. *The Writings of General Lu: Religion and Rule in Khalkha Mongolia at the Turn of the 20th Century*. MA Thesis, 2009, pp. 19-31. (Canvas)

Nov 1 Recitation

Primary sources:

- The Yangzhou Massacre (Sourcebook #59)
- Gu Yanwu, Preface to *Five Treatises on Phonology* (HR #83)
- The Village Headman and the New Teacher (Sourcebook #66)
- Yu Yonghe, *Small Sea Travelogue* (HR #84)
- Miao Albums (HR #85)

Week 11

Nov 4 The Late Qing Currency Crisis

Textbook:

- Decline Sets In (CIHC, pp.254-281)

Quiz 12

Nov 6 Republican China, May Fourth Movement, and the Two World Wars

Textbook:

- Taking Action (CIHC, pp.282-317)

Quiz 13

Nov 8 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Infant Protection Society (Sourcebook #69)
- Mid-Century Rebels (Sourcebook #70)
- The Conditions and Activities of Workers (Sourcebook #71)
- Liang Qichao on His Trip to America (Sourcebook #73)
- Ridding China of Bad Customs (Sourcebook #74)
- Rural Education (Sourcebook #75)
- My Old Home (Sourcebook #76)
- The Spirit of May Fourth Movement (Sourcebook #77)
- The Haifeng Peasant Association (Sourcebook #78)
- The General Strike (Sourcebook #80)
- My Children (Sourcebook #82)
- Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity (Sourcebook #84)

Secondary source:

- Julia Lovell, "The Opium War and China's 'Century of Humiliation,'" in *Demystifying China: New Understandings of Chinese History*, pp. 153–160.

Week 12

PAPER TWO DUE 11:59PM, MONDAY, NOV. 11

Nov 11 Women's Revolution (Guest lecture by Prof. Chloe Estep)

Nov 13 "China, For Example: A Genealogy of Chinese Sovereignty since 1492" (Guest lecture by Prof. Teemu Ruskola)

Nov 15 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Lu Xun, "In Memoriam"
- Lu Xun, "What Happens After Nora Walks Out?"
- He-Yin Zhen, "On the Question of Women's Liberation"

Week 13

Nov 18 Anti-Footbinding Movement

Quiz 14

Nov 20 China Under Mao

Textbook:

- China Under Mao (CIHC, pp.318-353)

Quiz 15

Nov 22 Recitation

Primary sources:

- The Communist Party (411-415)
- Land Reform (416-421)
- Hu Feng and Mao Zedong (422-428)
- A New Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department (429-434)
- Peng Dehuai's Critique of the Great Leap Forward (435-439)
- Developing Agricultural Production (440-441)
- Lei Feng, Chairman Mao's Good Fighter (442-446)
- Housing in Shanghai (442-448)
- Red Guards (449-457)
- Victims (458-469)

Secondary source:

- Christian Hess, "The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party," in *Demystifying China: New Understandings of Chinese History*, pp. 179–186.

Week 14

Handing out Paper Three topics

Nov 25 Final Paper Workshop (Three TFs)

Nov 27 NO CLASS

Nov 29 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Week 15

Dec 2 Taiwan [WATCH DOCUMENTARY AT HOME]

- “February 28 Incident,” in Taiwan History documentary series (FTV), first aired on Feb 28, 2016.
- The 228 Massacre in Alishan: “All We Have Left Are Ashes and Bones”, originally published in *The Reporter*, translated by *The Taiwan Gazette* (Mar 8, 2019) – Oral history of indigenous survivors from the 228 Incident and the White Terror.

Recommended:

- Documentary on Uyongu Yatauyungaga (FTV, 2021), in Chinese, Japanese, and Tsou; subtitled in Chinese only (sorry!)

Dec 4 Taiwan: Complex Identities

Readings:

- The introduction chapter of Tonio Andrade's *How Taiwan Became Chinese: Dutch, Spanish, and Han Colonization in the Seventeenth Century* (Columbia University Press, 2008)
- Keith Schoppa, “A Question of Identity: The Republic of China on Taiwan since the 1970s,” *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, 4th edition (Routledge, 2019), pp. 438-461 (Canvas)

Quiz 16

Dec 6 Recitation

Primary sources:

- Zuoliu Wu, *Orphan of Asia* (1945), translated by Ioannis Mentzas (Columbia University Press, 2008) – A novel written by a Taiwanese author who lived through the Japanese colonial period.
- Wuhe, *Remains of Life: A Novel* (2000), translated by Michael Berry (Columbia University Press, 2017) – A 2000 novel about the Musha Incident

Week 16

Dec 9 Course Wrap-up

Recommended readings:

- Allen Chun, “Fuck Chineseness: On the Ambiguities of Ethnicity as Culture as Identity,” in *boundary 2*, vol. 23, no. 2 (1996), pp. 111–138.
- Allen Chun, *Forget Chineseness: On the Geopolitics of Cultural Identification* (SUNY Press, 2017)
- Angelina Chin, *Unsettling Exiles: Chinese Migrants in Hong Kong and the Southern Periphery During the Cold War* (Columbia University Press, 2023)

PAPER THREE DUE 11:59PM MONDAY, DEC. 16