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EALC 5020: Chinese History and Civilization

This master's-level seminar focuses on the social, political, and cultural history of the Chinese region from the Stone Age to the end of the Chinese empire in 1912. All course materials are in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed.

The course will be conducted online, with **synchronous meetings every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 P.M.** This amounts to roughly half as much class time as in a regular course, but our meetings will be supplemented by asynchronous online interaction in the form of an **open discussion forum on the Canvas website**, where students will be encouraged to post questions and respond to or elaborate on other students' questions. The instructor will follow all discussions and also comment as appropriate. There is no specific minimum degree of participation, but students' contributions throughout the term will be factored into their final grades. Naturally, it will be possible to check the forum and add comments at any hour of the day.

In addition, students are required to write a **term paper** comprising approximately 5,000 words on any aspect of Chinese history from antiquity to the twenty-first century. **A one-page paper proposal, followed by a preliminary bibliography**, will be due on October 10. In this proposal, state what you would like to investigate, the reasons for your interest, and the sources that you expect to use. If you happen to choose a topic that is not viable in the context of an eleven-week course, you will still have time to explore other possibilities. The purpose of the bibliography is to demonstrate that you have done some degree of formal research and are aware of basic sources pertaining to your topic; at this stage, it is permissible to list items that you have not yet read. (But be sure that you have read everything in your final bibliography when you submit the term paper itself.) In response to the proposal, the instructor may suggest further avenues for research, as well as other sources that would be worth consulting.

The term paper is due on December 12. Any reference style is permissible as long as it is clear and consistent.

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I check it several times a day and usually respond within 24 hours.

WARNING: If you submit plagiarized work or submit an AI-generated paper, you will fail the assignment, fail the course, and have your case forwarded to the Center for Community Standards and Accountability. No exceptions. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor *before* submitting any work. For the university's Code of Academic Integrity, go to <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>.

There are two required texts:

Victor H. Mair, *et al.*, eds., *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005). ISBN 978-0-8248-2785-4.

Conrad Schirokauer and Miranda Brown, *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization*, 4th edition (Boston: Wadsworth, 2013). ISBN 978-0-495-91323-8.

Both have been placed on reserve at Van Pelt and should be readily available for purchase online (used or new). There are also e-book versions of each one, but Mair *et al.* is unpaginated. If you encounter this problem, you should be able to find a scanned table of contents (ToC.pdf) in the "Files" section of the Canvas site. Schirokauer & Brown is available for rent or purchase, and one of the previous editions, which are much cheaper, would also be acceptable; just make sure you get one called *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization* (not *Chinese and Japanese Civilizations*), and authored by Schirokauer & Brown (not Schirokauer solo).

The requirements of this course are:

- (a) participation in all synchronous class meetings (Thursdays, 6:30-8 P.M.);
- (b) completion of all reading assignments;
- (c) regular contributions to the class blog;
- (d) one-page term-paper proposal followed by a preliminary bibliography, due on October 10;
- (e) term paper (ca. 5,000 words), due on December 12.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Participation in class:	15%
Contributions to discussion forum:	30%
Term-paper proposal:	15%

Term paper:

40%

Schedule of Synchronous Meetings

While preparing the reading assignments, it is usually not necessary to memorize specific dates; rather, focus on the dominant social, political, and cultural trends of the period, and the underlying reasons for their flourishing.

Aug. 29. Introduction—No readings for this class.

Sept. 5. Unit 1: The Stone Age, the Shang Dynasty, and the Zhou Dynasty.

Schirokauer & Brown, 1-31; Mair *et al.*, 8-44, 99-105, 143-46.

Sept. 12. Unit 2: Classical Chinese Thought.

Schirokauer & Brown, 31-45; Mair *et al.*, 45-98, 106-42.

Sept. 19. Unit 3: The Qin and Han Dynasties.

Schirokauer & Brown, 47-73; Mair *et al.*, 147-89.

Sept. 26. Unit 4: The Three Kingdoms and Northern & Southern Dynasties.

Schirokauer & Brown, 75-98; Mair *et al.*, 225-99.

Oct. 3. NO CLASS

Oct. 10. Unit 5: The Sui and Tang Dynasties.

Schirokauer & Brown, 99-126; Mair *et al.*, 300-3, 349-79.

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE.

Oct. 17. Unit 6: The Song, Liao, and Jin Dynasties.

Schirokauer & Brown, 127-58; Mair *et al.*, 388-89, 392-432.

Oct. 24. Unit 7: The Yuan Dynasty.

Schirokauer & Brown, 159-80; Mair *et al.*, 437-55.

Oct. 31. Unit 8: The Ming Dynasty.

Schirokauer & Brown, 181-207; Mair *et al.*, 456-504, 514-47.

Nov. 7. Unit 9: The Qing Dynasty, Part I.

Schirokauer & Brown, 223-44; Mair *et al.*, 548-73.

Nov. 14. Unit 9, cont.: The Qing Dynasty, Part II.

Schirokauer & Brown, 247-86; Mair *et al.*, 603-16.

Nov. 21. Unit 10: China in the Twentieth Century, Part I.

Schirokauer & Brown, 286-324; Mair *et al.*, 617-41.

Nov. 28. NO CLASS

Dec. 5. Unit 10, cont.: China in the Twentieth Century, Part II.

Schirokauer & Brown, 325-72; Mair *et al.*, 642-45.