



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
CHIN 112 INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE CIVILISATION
20 POINTS
TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: The last day to hand in an assignment is 17 June. Beyond this date no more assignment will be accepted and assessed.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator, Lecturer and Tutor: Professor Yiyan Wang
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School Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/slc

Class times and locations

Lecture

Tuesday 10.00am - 11.50pm MY (Murphy) LT220

Tutorials

Monday 11.00am – 11.50am vZ (von Zedlitz) 506
OR Monday 12noon – 12.50pm vZ (von Zedlitz) 710

Please note that tutorial classes start in the **second** week of the trimester.

Students must choose tutorial class groups by signing up using the S-cubed system. <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>. You remain in your allotted group for the whole course, unless a change is authorised by the Course Coordinator.

Communication of additional information

Information on any timetable changes will be announced in lectures and posted on Blackboard. You are advised to check Blackboard regularly.

Prescription

This is a survey course introducing some of the salient features of Chinese civilisation from prehistoric times to the present century. Topics include literature, thought and scholarship, religious beliefs, art, and the cultural and social achievements of the main dynasties.

Course content

The textbook and lectures will provide an overview of the main issues in the history and development of the Chinese civilization, while the tutorial assignments and the essay will allow students to explore particular topics in more depth. Topics addressed in lectures and tutorials include various genres of literature, art and architecture, religion and scholarship, as well as aspects of material culture, all of which will be discussed within the framework of China's pre-imperial and imperial history.

Apart from the range of factual material this course seeks to impart, students will also be encouraged to explore changing Chinese conceptions of culture and civilisation and form their views through critical assessments of historical evidence and scholarship.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

The aim of the course is to provide students with a basic knowledge of the history and development of Chinese civilisation. It will take students onto a journey to discover how Chinese perceived themselves and how they interacted with the world. It will also introduce students to the basic skills in assessing historical materials critically. Students will also be taught how to effectively present their opinions and ideas orally and in written form, especially through tutorial discussion.

Students who pass this course should have:

1. Acquired a general understanding of the development of traditional Chinese civilisation;

2. Brought the perceptions gained from these understandings to bear on a numbers of specific topics in the field of Chinese civilisation;
3. Enhanced their ability in critical thinking;
4. Developed theirs skills in formulating arguments and enhanced their ability to effectively present ideas both orally and in written form.

Teaching format

The course consists of ONE two-hour lecture and ONE tutorial per week.

Students are expected to have read the required readings before coming to lectures and tutorials. Lectures and tutorials may begin with questions about the content of the reading and students will be randomly selected in answering these questions orally.

Other members of staff involved in the study of China may be invited to deliver a number of the lectures associated with this course.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50, students must:

1. Complete 3 of the four assessments.
2. Course attendance should be at least 80% of all classes offered.

Workload

Students are required to attend the 2-hour lecture and one tutorial each week. Course attendance should be at least 80% of all classes offered.

The University Assessment Handbook has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a one trimester 20-point course should work on average 14 hours per week including class contact hours, in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|-----|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Mid-trimester essay, 1200 words | 30% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Monday Week 7 |
| 2 Class test 1, 50 minutes | 20% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Monday Week 10 |
| 3 Class test 2, 50 minutes | 20% | 1 | Tuesday Week 12 |
| 4 Final essay, 1200 words | 30% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Friday Week 12 |

1. Essays: 1st essay topics will be posted on the Blackboard at the beginning of the trimester and 2nd essays topics in Week 6. In Week 3 we will discuss how to write academic essays in tutorials. Each essay may take 20 hours to complete in average.
2. Test 1: students are required to choose to answer 2 questions out of the 10 given before hand in short essay form. The test questions will be posted on Blackboard in Week 8. Students may need an average of 15 hours to prepare for Test 1.
3. Test 2 consists of 20 questions which students are expected to answer with one or two sentences. Students may need an average of 20 hours to prepare for Test 2.

Submission and return of work

Essays: All essays should be submitted electronically through Blackboard and with a print-out copy to the Chinese Assignment slot located to the left of the SLC main office on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz. You should also attach a coversheet available from the 6th floor of the von Zedlitz building and on Blackboard. Essays should follow academic conventions of formatting and referencing (see detailed

instructions below). They should be double spaced in font size 12 and with decent margins on all sides (about 4cm). They can be printed on both sides of the paper.

Essays may be checked through Turtintin system. Please make sure that you acknowledge all sources of ideas presented in your essay and reference them properly.

Essays will be marked and returned within three weeks from the date of submission.

Students will be able to collect marked work from the SLC Office on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm each day. A Student ID card will need to be shown to collect work.

Extensions and penalties

The late submission of essays must be negotiated with the Course Coordinator before the due date and, depending upon circumstances, may be penalised. The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a 5% deduction per day.

Students must make every effort to sit for the tests. Those who miss a test for medical or other humanitarian reasons with sufficient documentation can write an essay of 1000 words on a topic selected from the list of essay topics other than the topics the student has worked on for essay assignments previously.

The last day to hand in an assignment is 17 June. Beyond this date no more assignment will be accepted and assessed.

Set texts

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

Additional handout materials on the Blackboard.

Recommended Background Reading:

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

de Bary, WM and Irene Bloom, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2 vols. 2nd Edition, New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.

Gernet, Jacques, *A History of Chinese Civilization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Minford, John and Joseph SM Lau, eds. *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.

Owen, Stephen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*. New York: WW Norton, 1996.

Students will be introduced to other relevant material during the course.

Set texts can be purchased from Vic Books, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. They can also be ordered online at www.vicbooks.co.nz. Orders and enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Referencing for essays

To avoid charges of plagiarism, and conform to the general standards of academic writing, your essay must include footnotes to give the source of:

- All direct quotes

- All ideas that you have taken from another author (even if you have not used their words)
- All key facts and information (unless they are common knowledge)

Use of footnotes in the format of the following models is preferred (though students who use a different system of referencing will not be penalized, as long as it is an established system within an academic discipline):

References to a book:

Grant Hardy, *Worlds of Bronze and Bamboo*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), p. 14.

References to a journal article:

Stevan Harrell, "The History of the Yi," *Modern China* 29, no.3 (2003): p. 562.

References to a chapter in a book written by more than one author:

Hong Lijian, "Sichuan: Disadvantage and Mismanagement in the Heavenly Kingdom," in David SG Goodman ed., *China's Provinces in Reform: Class, Community and Political Culture*, (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), p. 12.

You must also include a bibliography listing all the sources you have used at the end of your essay. Essays without references will not receive a pass mark.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Student feedback

Response to feedback for this course will be discussed in class or delivered via Blackboard. Student feedback on University courses may be found at http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy

- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Timetable

WEEK ONE

Lecture Tuesday 4 March
 Topic 1 Introduction to the Course
 Topic 2 The Sacred Character
 Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 17-35.

No tutorials this week.

WEEK TWO

Lecture Tuesday 11 March
 Topic 1 The Age of the Warrior and the Thinker
 Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 36-53.
 Topic 2 The First Empire
 Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 55-95.
 Yiyang Wang: "Ruthless Tyrant or compassionate Hero?: Chinese Popular Nationalism and the Myth of State Origins" in Gary D. Rawnsley and Ming-Yeh T. Rawnsley, eds, *Global Chinese Cinema: the Culture and Politics of Hero*. London: Routledge, 2010, 43-52. (on Blackboard)

Two films relevant to this week's topic:
The Emperor and the Assassin by Chen Kaige
Hero by Zhang Yimou

Tutorial 1 in Week Two: Origins of the Chinese civilisation
 Tutorial questions: Where and how did the Chinese civilisation begin?
 Do you think it originated from one location or more?
 What were the characteristics of the earlier Chinese civilisation?
 How does it compare with other civilisations?

WEEK THREE

Lecture Tuesday 18 March
 Topic 1 Confucian Ascendancy
 Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 97-117
 Topic 2 the Civilized and the Barbarian
 Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 117-149.

Tutorial 2 in Week Three: a. How to Write Academic Essays in Chinese Studies?
 b. How do you view the origin of the Chinese state?

This tutorial will focus on helping students with the construction and development of your essay. You should give some thought to which topic you may write about. You are encouraged to ask questions about the topic you have in mind. You should start working on your essay from this week.

WEEK FOUR

Lecture Tuesday 25 March (Dr Michael Radich, Religious Studies)
Topic 1 China's Religious Landscape
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 153-170.
Topic 2 The "Sinification" of Buddhism
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 170-189.

Tutorial 3 in Week Four: Confucianism

Tutorial questions:

Is Confucianism a religion?

What are the core values of Confucianism? Can you name the major Confucian classics?

Can you name a few countries other than China in which Confucian influences remain strong?

WEEK FIVE

Lecture Tuesday 1 April
Topic 1 Cosmopolitan China
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 191-219.
Topic 2 Dunhuang
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 221-258.

Tutorial 4 in Week Five: Religions in China and Chinese Religions

Tutorial Questions:

What are the major religious belief systems in China?

In what ways are they evident in Chinese daily lives today?

Are you aware of any Chinese religion practiced in New Zealand? Can you describe it?

WEEK SIX

Lecture Tuesday 8 April
Topic 1 The Song Transformation and the Chinese Urban Life
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 261-272.
Topic 2 Beyond the Wall
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 299-367.

Tutorial 5 in Week Six: China's Interactions with its neighbours

Tutorial questions:

Where was China from 7th to 10th century?

How do you see China's relations with its neighbours during this time period?

Where were the silk routes? What was their significance?

Essay One due by 4:00pm Monday 14 April

WEEK SEVEN

Lecture Tuesday 15 April
Topic 1 The Northern Dynasties and the Mongols
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 299-367.
Topic 2 Beyond the Seas

Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 369-387 & 393-397.

Tutorial 6 in Week Seven: Popular culture in the Song Dynasty

Tutorial Questions:

What is the cultural significance of the Song Dynasty in the development of the Chinese civilisation?

What are the strengths and the weakness of the Chinese civilisation if we take the Song Dynasty as embodying its typical characteristics?

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 18 APRIL TO 4 MAY

WEEK EIGHT

Lecture Tuesday 6 May

Topic 1 The Manchu Empire and Its Achievements

Reading: Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilisation*, pp. 463-494 (on Blackboard)

Topic 1 Tibet and the Chinese Empires

Reading: Robert E. Gamer, *Understanding Contemporary China*, pp. 183-196. (on Blackboard)

Tutorial 7 in Week Eight: the Changing Chinese Empires

Tutorial questions:

Why the plural for the Chinese empires? In what sense were they or were they not "Chinese"?

Who were the subjects of the empires?

Do you agree that "China" was an open empire? Why?

WEEK NINE

Lecture Tuesday 13 May

Topic 1 From the Empire to a Modern Nation

Reading: Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, pp. 262-291. (on Blackboard)

Topic 2 Gender in China's Past

Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 272-297.

Tutorial 8 in Week Nine: the Qing Dynasty, Tibet and China

Tutorial questions:

What do you consider as the achievements and failures of the Qing administration?

What were the measures that strengthened the multicultural empire?

What do you think of the historical sino-Tibetan relations?

What is your understanding of the position of Tibet under the rule of Mongols?

WEEK TEN

Lecture Tuesday 20 May

Topic 1 Art and Material Culture

Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, p. 143, pp. 9-10; pp. 359-367.

Topic 2 Print Culture and Censorship

Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 299-367.

Tutorial 9 in Week Ten: **Test 1**

WEEK ELEVEN

Lecture Tuesday 27 May

Topic 1 Chinese Literature and Performing Arts

Reading: Yiyan Wang, *The Chinese Novel. The Encyclopaedia of the Novel*, ed. Peter Melville Logan, Oxford: Wiley Publishing House, 2011, 178-180. (On Blackboard)
Topic 2 Novels in Late Imperial China (*Dream of the Red Chamber*)
Reading: Victor H. Mair, *The Columbia History of Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001, pp. 720-731. (On Blackboard)
C. T. Hsia, *The Classic Chinese Novel: A Critical Introduction*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1968, pp. 245-297.

Tutorial 10 in Week Eleven: Culture, Commerce and the State

Tutorial questions:

How did “Chinese art and material culture” reflect the scope and diversity of the Chinese Empires?

Was Chinese society oppressive towards women in particular?

What do you know about the history of Chinese literature?

What constitutes elite Chinese culture?

Examples of popular culture in imperial China?

WEEK TWELVE

Lecture 11-12:50 Tuesday 3 June

Course Evaluation and **Test 2**

Tutorial 11 in Week Twelve: Review, Q&A regarding Test 2

Final essay due 4:00 pm Friday 6 June