History 2629: China in World History

Fall 2009  Professor: Kwangmin Kim
Tu-Th 12:30-1:45 pm  Office: 333 Hellems
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Office hours: Tu-Th 11-12 am, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is a survey of Chinese history with a special focus on China’s long-standing interaction with the rest of the world. Contrary to the commonly held perception, China was not a closed, isolationist country before its contact with the West in the late-nineteenth century. China not only impacted other parts of the world, but it received profound influence from the outside world. This course explores this global dimension of Chinese history. Major themes of this course include, but are not limited to, the origin of Chinese civilization, the dynamic of China- Inner Asian interactions, spread of the world religions – Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam – in China, China’s role in the formation of early modern world system, Chinese migration and diasporas, and the birth of Chinese nationalism and communism in transnational context, China and the Cold War, China’s integration into the global capitalist system in the late twentieth century.

Learning Objectives: This is a lower division course for non-majors. No previous knowledge of Chinese history is required. Through this course, students will not only familiarize themselves with basic facts about Chinese history but will also learn to critically analyze the role of transnational forces working in Chinese history. To achieve this goal, this course will employ a combination of course readings, lectures, discussions, writing assignments, movies, and written exams.

Required Readings:
Jonathan D. Spence, To Change China: Western Advisers in China, New York: Penguin, 1980
Botan, Letters from Thailand, Silkworm Books, 2002

These books are on sale at the CU Bookstore in the UMC. The other readings on the syllabus, marked with an asterisk (*) are also required. Unless otherwise stated, they will all be available as PDF files that you can download from the class webpage on CULearn.

Grade Break-down:
- Mid-term Exam 1 15%
- Mid-term Exam 2 15%
- Final Exam 25%
- Paper 30%
- Attendance and Participation 15%
**Paper:** Students are expected to submit one analytical paper on *Letters from Thailand.* Students are encouraged to be creative in their analysis and avoid a simple summary. The paper should be **no less than five and no more than seven pages.** This paper is due on December 10. Late papers will be deducted one letter grade per day that they are late. Remember the papers will be graded on the basis of the originality of your analysis.

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance is mandatory and will be checked every time the class meets. In-class participation is worth ten percent of the final grade. Participation is defined as being prepared for class, contributing regularly to classroom discussions, and being an active member of the classroom environment with questions and comments.

Any student who misses more than three class meetings will have their final grade for the course lowered by one letter grade. Each additional absence will lower the grade by another full letter grade. Missing more than six class meetings will result in automatic failure of the course, regardless of performance in other graded areas.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability,** please submit a letter from the Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Campus policy regarding **religious observances** requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class you are asked to contact the professor at least one week in advance and preferably earlier than that. For campus policies on this, see: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an **appropriate learning environment.** Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See polices at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at: http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on **Discrimination and Harassment,** the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at:
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aiding of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at: http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

Course Schedule

Week 1
August 25: Introduction
August 27: War and early Chinese states
Joanna Waley-Cohen, The Sextants of Beijing, pp.1-10
*John E. Wills, Jr. Mountain of Fame, pp.11-32

Week 2
September 1: The First Empire: Qin Shihuangdi and the Qin empire
September 3: Movie: Hero, 2002
Joanna Waley-Cohen, The Sextants of Beijing, pp.11-18
*Sima Qian, The First Emperor, Oxford University Press, 2007, pp.3-51

Week 3
September 8: The Han empire and Silk Road
September 10: Age of Disunity and Buddhism
Joanna Waley-Cohen, The Sextants of Beijing, pp.18-20
*Selection from Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed., The Buddhist Tradition in India, China, and Japan, Vintage, 1972

Week 4
September 15: The Tang dynasty, Indian Ocean trade, and ancient Chinese world order
September 17: The Song dynasty: China among equals
Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, pp.21-37
*John E. Wills, Jr. Mountain of Fame*, pp.114-126; 127-148
*Selection from Xuanzang, The Great Tang Record of the Western Regions*

**Week 5**
September 22: Chinggis Khan and Pax Mongolica
September 24: Mid-term 1
*Selection from David Morgan, The Mongols, Basil Blackwell, 1986
*Selection from Christopher Dawson, The Mongol Mission: Narrative and Letters of the Franciscan Missionaries in Mongolia and China in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries, Sheed and Ward, 1955*

**Week 6**
September 29: The Ming empire and the early modern world
October 1: Christianity and Islam
Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, pp.45-54
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp.3-33
*Philip Snow, The Star Raft, Grove Press, 1988, pp.1-36*

**Week 7**
October 6: Qing dynasty’s multi-ethnic empire
October 8: Early modern Chinese society
Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, pp.92-128

**Week 8**
October 13: Opium War
October 15: Western missionaries, Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, and anti-Christian movements
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp.34-92; 129-160

**Week 9**
October 20: Treaty ports and the origin of Chinese nationalism
October 22: Fall of imperial China
Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, pp.166-205
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp.93-128

**Week 10**
October 27: Mid-term 2
October 29: Nationalist revolution
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp. 161-227

**Week 11**
November 3: Early communism
November 5: Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp.228-278

**Week 12**
November 10: Mao’s China
*Mao Zedong’s writings*

**Week 13**
November 17: Sino-Soviet Split
November 19: China’s “Open Door”
Jonathan D. Spence, *To Change China: Western Advisers in China*, pp.279-293

**Week 14**
November 24: Fall break
November 26: Fall break

**Week 15**
December 1: Formation of Chinese diasporas
December 3: Discussion: *Letter from Thailand*


**Week 16**


December 10: Conclusion

Final paper due in class on December 10

**Final Exam: December 16, 1:30-4:00 pm**