History 4618: Traditional China

Fall 2009
Tu-Th 3:30-4:45 pm
Ketchum 235

Professor: Kwangmin Kim
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Ketchum 235
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Office hours: Tu-Th 11-12 am, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is a survey of the history of China from the Neolithic Age to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The major themes of this course include, but are not limited to, 1) origin of Chinese civilization, 2) emergence of the ancient empires and the unification of China, 3) China’s long-standing interactions with the Inner Asian nomads, 4) The Mongol invasion and the legacy of multi-cultural empire in China, 5) gentry ruling class and the formation of the late-imperial society, and 6) China and its relations with the early modern maritime world.

Learning Objectives: This is an upper division course; however, previous knowledge of Chinese history is not required. Through this course, students will not only acquire a survey level knowledge of the pre-modern Chinese history, but also learn to critically analyze social, cultural, and global dynamics in the development of the pre-modern Chinese history. To achieve this goal, this course employs a combination of course readings, lectures, discussions, writing assignments, movies, and written exams.

Required Readings:
Sima Qian, The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records, Oxford University Press, 2007

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:

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 1</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam 2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Paper: Students are expected to submit an analytical paper on Sima Qian, The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records. They are encouraged to be creative in their analysis and avoid a simple summary. The paper should be no less than five pages and no more than seven pages. This paper is due on September 24. 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, being prepared and willing to ask questions, and being an active member of the classroom environment.

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 to me a letter from 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: http://www.colorado.edu/odh

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: Perspectives on traditional China
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Introduction

Week 2
September 1: China’s antiquity
September 3: Discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 1
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp.3-16, 38-45

Week 3
September 8: Confucius and Pre-Qin Political Philosophy
September 10: Discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 2, pp.46-54
*Selection from the *Historical Records*

Week 4
September 15: Qin Shihuangdi and unification of China
September 17: Discussion: Sima Qian, *The First Emperor*
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 2, pp.54-71
Sima Qian, *The First Emperor*

Week 5
September 22: The Han empire and Silk Road
September 24: Discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 2, pp.54-71
(continued)
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp.54-85

Paper on *The First Emperor* due in class on September 24

Week 6
September 29: Mid-term 1
October 1: Movie: *Hero*, 2002

**Week 7**
October 6: Nomadic invasion and the Southern Dynasties
October 8: Spread of Buddhism; discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 3, pp.72-76
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp.87-108
*Selection from Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed., *The Buddhist Tradition in India, China, and Japan*, Vintage, 1972

**Week 8**
October 13: Tang dynasty’s cosmopolitan empire
October 15: Discussion of sources
*John E. Wills, Jr. *Mountain of Fame*, pp.114-126; 127-148
*Selection from Xuanzang, *The Great Tang Record of the Western Regions*

**Week 9**
October 20: The Song dynasty: China among equals
October 22: Tang-Song transition; discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 4

**Week 10**
October 27: Gentry and Neo-Confucianism
October 29: Discussion of sources
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 4 (continued)
*John E. Wills, Jr. *Mountain of Fame*, pp.168-180

**Week 11**
November 3: Mongols in China
November 5: Mid-term 2
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp.192-201

**Week 12**
November 10: The Hongwu emperor and imperial autocracy
November 12: The Yongle emperor and Zheng He
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 6, pp.128-140
**Week 13**
November 17: The Ming and the early modern world  
November 19: Christianity and Islam  
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 6, pp.128-140  
(continued)  

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

**Week 15**
December 1: Late-Ming society  
December 3: Seventeenth-century peasant rebellions  
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 6, pp.140-142  
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, pp.208-266  
*John E. Wills, Jr. Mountain of Fame*, pp.216-230

**Week 16**
December 8: Rise of Manchus  
December 10: Conclusion  
John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Chapter 7, pp. 143-146  

**Final exam: December 15, 1:30pm - 4:00pm**