

16:165:524: Advanced Topics in Chinese Civilization 中國文明專題研究
Asian Languages and Cultures
Rutgers University
Spring 2017

Syllabus

Course Description:

Critical reading and discussion of recent scholarship on core aspects of Chinese civilization. Topics include early Chinese thought, ascendance of Confucianism, Chinese religions, imperial political system, women in Chinese society and culture, influence of Chinese culture on Europe, China's re-encounter with the West, China's modernization, Chinese culture and world culture. Comparison with other cultures whenever possible will be made.

The course meets once a week on Mondays 4:50 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Scott Hall 106 or 332, College Avenue Campus.

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Office Hours: Monday 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., or by appointment

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to major issues in the study of Chinese civilization as discussed by Western and Chinese scholars
2. To help students develop the ability to understand, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary documents on issues related to Chinese civilization
3. To discuss aspects of Chinese civilization in comparison with other major civilizations and assess its contributions to world civilization over time
4. To consider ways in which the study of Chinese civilization can be integrated into K-12 Chinese language and social studies curricula

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in class discussion 上課出席及課堂討論
2. Oral report on a topic included in the syllabus 口頭報告 (課程大綱包括的題目)
3. A research term paper (10-15 pages) based on the oral report 口頭報告為基礎，完成學期期終報告，10-15 頁左右 (隔行打字)
4. Final Examination 期末考試

Required Texts:

Chan, Wing-tsit, trans. and ed. *Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963.
Chinese version is also available under the title: *Zhongguo zhexue wenxian xuandu* 中國哲學文獻選讀. 2 vols. Taipei: Juliu, 1993.

Mote, Frederick W. (1989). *Intellectual Foundations of China*. 2nd ed. New York: Knopf, 1989.

Selected Readings in Classical Chinese Literature 中國古典文學選讀. *Volume I: Texts*. Ching-I Tu, ed. Chinese Program, Rutgers University, 1981. Available as pdf file on course sakai site.

Suggested Text:

Ebrey, Patricia. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
ISBN: 978-0521124331. (Most up-to-date general survey of Chinese history in English speaking world)

Hsu, Cho-yun. *China: A New Cultural History*. Trans. Timothy Baker and Michael S. Duke. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780231159210. Translation of 許倬雲, 萬古江河——中國歷史文化的轉折與開展 (Taipei: Yingwen Hansheng, 2006). (Hsu's book "focuses on the China's cultural sphere and its encounters with successive waves of globalization.... It describes the daily lives of commoners, their spiritual beliefs and practices, the changing character of their social and popular thought, and their advances in material culture and technology.")

Temple, Robert. *The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention*. Introduced by Joseph Needham. London: Prion Books, 2002. ISBN: 1-85375-292-4 ("The Genius of China is a doorway into three millennia of invention in science and technology from agriculture to astronomy, medicine to mathematic, exploration to engineering.")

Semester Schedule & Topics for Discussion:

Session	Main Topic	Subtopics	Reading Assignments
1/23	1. Introduction to the Course: Chinese Language, Literature, and Thought	(1) Special features of Chinese language and writing system (2) The Spirit of Chinese philosophy (3) Chinese language and literature (4) Chinese Language and Thought	Fung, <i>Short History</i> , 1-15 Chu, "Chinese Language," 587-615 Whorf, "The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language" Moore, "The Humanistic Chinese Mind"
1/30	2. Humanism in China:	(1) Confucius' Concept of "Ren" (Human Kindness) (2) Mencius' Theory of the "Original Goodness of Human Nature" (3) Xunzi's Theory of the "Original Evil of Human Nature" (4) Morality and Culture	Frederick Mote, <i>Foundations</i> , Ch.3 Wing-tsit Chan, <i>Sources</i> , Ch.2 (Confucius), Ch.3 (Mencius), Ch.4 (Daxue), Ch.6 (Xunzi)
2/6	3. Man and Society I:	(1) Confucius' Theory of the "Rectification of Name" (2) Mencius' Theory of "Sageliness Within" and "Kinglyness Without" (3) Mozi's Theory of Social Conduct (4) Legalist Approach	Frederick Mote, <i>Foundations</i> , Ch.5, Ch.7 Wing-tsit Chan, <i>Sources</i> , Ch.9 (Mozi), Ch.12 (Legalism) Huang, "Mencius' Hermeneutics of Classics"
2/13	4. Man and Society II:	(1) Yang Zhu's Idea of Withdrawal from Society (2) Laozi's Political Theory (3) Zhuangzi's Theory of the "Use of the Useless" (4) Relative Happiness vs. Absolute Happiness	Wing-tsit Chan, <i>Sources</i> , Ch.8 (Zhuangzi), Ch.18 (Yang Zhu) Graham, <i>Chuang-tzu</i> Kohn, "The Reception of Laozi"
2/20	5. Man and Nature:	(1) Origin of Chinese Ontology and Cosmology as Seen in <i>Yijing</i> (2) Xunzi's Theory of Nature (3) Nature in Taoism (4) Special Features of Chinese View of Nature	Frederick Mote, <i>Foundations</i> , Ch.2, Ch.4 Wing-tsit Chan, <i>Sources</i> , Ch.1 (Humanism), Ch. 6 (Xunzi), Ch.7 (Taoism), Ch.13 (<i>Yijing</i>)
2/27	6. Religions in Chinese Culture:	(1) Religions before the Shang-Zhou Period (2) Confucianism as Religion? (3) The Coming of Buddhism and the Sinicized Buddhism (4) Taoism as Religion	Lothar von Falkenhausen, <i>Chinese Society</i> , Ch.7 Wing-tsit Chan, <i>Sources</i> , Ch.26 (Chan Buddhism) Christine Mollier, <i>Buddhism and Taoism Face to Face</i>

3/6	7. Imperial China and Real Politics:	(1) The Ascendance of Confucianism in the Han Dynasty (2) The Duality in Chinese Politics (3) The Origin of Imperial Power (4) Check and Balance	Frederick Mote, <i>Foundations</i> , Ch.7 Mark Edward Lewis, <i>Chinese Empires</i> , Ch.2, 3 Xiao Gongquan, <i>Zhengzhi</i> , Ch.8
Spring Break			
3/20	8. Women in Chinese History:	(1) Confucian Views (2) Women in Chinese Language and Literature: <i>Shuowen jiezi, Shijing</i> , Nineteen Ancient Poems, Peacock Flying Southeast, <i>Mu Lan Ci</i> (3) Women Authors (4) Theme of Love in Chinese Poetry	Robin Wang, <i>Images</i> Sin Yee Chan, "Gender" Chang Sun Kang-I, <i>Women Writers</i> (selections) Li, "Can Confucianism Come to Terms with Feminism" Tu, "A Confucian Response to the Feminist Critique"
3/27	9. Time, Space, and History:	(1) The Absence of the Theory of Creation (2) The Cyclical View of Time (3) The Continuity of History (4) <i>Shiji</i> and Chinese Dynastic Histories	Wai-yee Li, <i>Readability</i> , Introduction, Ch.3 Ong-cho Ng & Q. Edward Wang, <i>Mirroring the Past</i> , Ch.1 and 2 Wang Hui, "Tianli yu lishi"
4/3	10. China and the West:	(1) Contact before the 15 th Century (2) The Coming of Jesuits (3) Attraction of Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism to the West (4) Chinese Culture and Enlightenment in Europe	Wang Rongzu, "Lun duo minzu Zhongguo" Wang Chengmian, "Meiyou jiaojide duihua" Davis, "Confucian Ideal" Bodde, "Chinese Ideas in the West" Harvey, "The Wisdom of the East"
4/10	11. China's Response to the West Since the 19 th Century:	(1) Causes of the Conflict (2) China's Reform- Material (3) China's Reform-Institutional (4) China's Reform- Ideological and Spiritual (5) The Road to Modernization	Teng & Fairbank, <i>China's Response to the West</i> Paul A. Cohen, <i>Discovering History in China</i> Lydia Liu, <i>Clash of Empires</i> Wang Hui, "Yazhou xiangxiang"
4/17	12: Science & Technology in China	(1) Is there "Science in China?" (2) Early Concepts (<i>Yijing, Xunzi</i>) (3) The "Needham Question" (4) The Promise of Science and Technology in Modern China	Benjamin Elman, "Global Science" Benjamin Elman, "From Pre-modern Natural Studies" Joseph Needham, <i>Science and Civilization in China</i> Hu Shih. "The Scientific Spirit and Method in Chinese Philosophy"
4/24	13: Chinese Culture and World Culture:	(1) Human Rights (2) Environmental Concerns (3) Family and Society Harmony (4) Moral Cultivation and Spiritual Freedom (5) Revival of Confucian Thought	Stephen Angle, "Human Rights" Chen Shengyong, "Native Resources" Du Weiming, <i>Wenming de chongtu yu duihua</i> Bloom, "Fundamental Institutions" Bell, <i>China's New Confucianism</i>
5/1	Conclusion and General Discussion	China, Asia, and the World	

List of References:

- Angle, Stephen C. (2008). "Human Rights and Harmony." *Human Rights Quarterly* 30 (2008): 76-94.
- Bell, Daniel A. "Responses to Critics: The Real and the Ideal." In *Beyond Liberal Democracy: Political Thinking for an East Asian Context*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2006: 323-341.
- Bell, Daniel A. *China's New Confucianism: Politics and Everyday Life in a Changing Society*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.
- Bloom, Irene. "Fundamental Intuitions and Consensus Statements: Mencian Confucianism and Human Rights." In de Bary, William T. and Tu Wei-ming, ed. *Confucianism and Human Rights*. New York: Columbia UP, 1998: 94-116.
- Bodde, Derk. "Chinese Ideas in the West." In *China: A Teaching Workbook*, Asia for Educators, Columbia University, 1948. Available at [this URL](#).
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- Chen, Shengyong. "The Native Resources of Deliberative Politics in China." In Leib, Ethan J., and Baogang He, ed. *The Search for Deliberative Democracy in China*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006: 161-173.
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- Davis, Walter W. "China, the Confucian Ideal, and the European Age of Enlightenment." In Julia Ching and Willard Gurdon Oxtoby, ed. *Discovering China: European Interpretations in the Enlightenment*. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 1992.
- Tu Weiming 杜維明. *Wen ming de chong tu yu dui hua* (文明的衝突與對話). Ed. by Zhu Hanmin and Xiao Yongming (朱漢民, 肖永明編選). Changsha: Hunan daxue chubanshe, 2001.
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Useful Websites:

- Asia for Educators (Columbia University) : <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>
- PR Goldin Bibliographies: <http://works.bepress.com/paulrgoldin/>
- P Halsall, Chinese Culture course: <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/core9/phalsall/>
- Patricia Ebrey, Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization: <http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/>
- Women in Chinese History Bibliography: <http://hua.umf.maine.edu/China/womtxt.html>
- P Ebrey personal website: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~asia/bibs/bibebrey.html>
- EMuseum China: <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/china/>
- Julia Murray, Arts of China Study Sheets: <http://www.wisc.edu/arth/ah370/studysheet.html>
- Chinese Art & Archeology: <http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/timelines/china/china.html>
- Digital Scrolling Paintings Project, University of Chicago: <https://scrolls.uchicago.edu/>