

# CHIN 112: Introduction to Chinese Civilisation

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

**Trimester 1 2008**

**18 Points**

## STAFF

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Hours: 9:45am-4:30pm

The lecturer will be available for consultation during normal working hours.

Students are encouraged to watch the Chinese Programme Notice Board (7<sup>th</sup> Floor, von Zedlitz Building) for information on courses, programme changes, as well as Chinese Culture Club activities.

## CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

1. Lectures:

Mon 3-4 KK 107  
and Fri 3-4 KK 107

2. Tutorials:

Mon 2-3 22KP 104  
or Fri 2-3 22KP 104

## AIMS AND CONTENT OF COURSE

This is a survey course introducing some of the salient features of Chinese civilisation from prehistoric times to the present century. The methodology adopted will involve the reading and discussion of a number of seminal texts of the Chinese tradition, both discursive and literary (all in English translation) and an analysis of their social and political contexts. Topics to be addressed will include various genres of literature, both classical and modern (historical writing, poetry, drama, novel, essay, short story), thought, religion and scholarship (Confucianism, Taoism, Chan Buddhism), art (painting and calligraphy), as well as aspects of material culture (printing, architecture, landscape gardening, etc.), all discussed within the framework of the dynastic history of China.

Apart from the range of factual material this course seeks to impart, students will also be encouraged to examine differing Chinese and Western understandings of concepts such as culture and civilisation.

By the conclusion of the course, therefore, students will be expected to have:

- Acquired a general understanding of the development of traditional Chinese civilisation.
- Engaged in close reading, in English, of a number of the seminal texts of this civilisation.

- Reflected on the process of engagement between the civilisations of China and Europe.
- Brought the perceptions gained from these understanding to bear on a numbers of specific topics in the field of Chinese civilisation.

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

Essays, the topics of which may be of your own devising, will give you the opportunity to pursue at greater length aspects of Chinese civilisation that particularly interest you. A final examination will test your retention of general knowledge acquired during the course.

Prescribed Texts:

- *CHIN 112: Introduction to Chinese Civilisation: Course Notes* (VUW Student Notes Office) [\$28.60]
- Paul S. Ropp, ed., *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilisation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990) [\$57.95]

Recommended Background Reading:

- Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
- Caroline Blunden & Mark Elvin, *Cultural Atlas of China* (Oxford: Phaidon, 1983)
- Michael Loewe, *The Pride that was China* (London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1990)
- Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilisation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982)
- W.M. de Bary & Irene Bloom, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2 vols. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, New York: Columbia University Press, 1999)
- F.W. Mote, *Imperial China, 900-1800* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600* (New York & London: W.W. Norton, 2000)

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This course is entirely internally assessed. Students are required to submit two essays, both of approximately 1500 words in length, and to sit a final (50 minute) test:

1st Essay:	11 April (35%)
2nd Essay:	16 May (35%)
Final Test:	30 May (30%) (50 Minutes)

Lateness:

The late submission of essays must be negotiated with the lecturer before the due date and, depending upon circumstances, may be penalised.

## WORKLOAD AND ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Faculty workload guidelines suggest that students should devote 12 hours a week to this course for its duration

Students are required to attend two lectures and one tutorial per week and attendance should be at least 80% of all classes offered.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course all students will be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

## GENERAL ADVICE

**Contact Person:**

**Students with Disabilities**

**Maori and Pacific Students**

Dr Rick Millington vZ613 Phone 383 7852 Email: [Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz)

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

