



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

CHIN 112 INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE CIVILISATION

TRIMESTER 1 2013
4 March – 3 July 2013

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013
Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer: Professor Yiyan Wang
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Class times and locations

Lecture

Wednesday 11.00am - 12.50pm MY (Murphy) LT102

Tutorials

Monday 2.10pm - 3.00pm vZ (von Zedlitz) 515
OR Monday 3.10pm - 4.00pm OK (Old Kirk) 301

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.

Teaching learning summary

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.

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.

Course 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.

Learning objectives

By the conclusion of the course, 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.
- Brought the perceptions gained from these understandings to bear on a number of specific topics in the field of Chinese civilisation.

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

Essays will give students the opportunity to pursue at greater length aspects of Chinese civilisation that particularly interest them. The tests in the last week will examine their retention of general knowledge acquired during the course.

Expected 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 13 hours per week including class contact hours, in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Readings

Set Text:

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:

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).

Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilisation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982).

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

John Minford & Joseph SM Lau, eds. *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations* (New York & Hong Kong: Columbia University Press & The Chinese University Press, 2000).

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

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

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Assessment requirements

1. Mid-trimester essay, 1200 words, 30%, due time: 4:00pm Thursday 18 April
2. Final essay, 1200 words, 30%, due time: 4:00pm Monday 27 May
3. Class test, 100 minutes, 40%, during lecture time, 11.00am - 12.50pm Wednesday 5 June

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.

Mandatory course requirements

It is mandatory for a student to complete at least two of the three assessments. Course attendance should be at least 80% of all classes offered.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, 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 your courses are 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](#).

Presentation of assignments

Tidy presentation of assignments is essential. Work may be typed or neatly handwritten. Leave a decent margin (say 4 centimetres) and do not write in pencil. You should attach a coversheet (available from the 6th floor of the von Zedlitz building) and on Blackboard to all assignments before submitting them. Assignments are to be handed in to the CHINESE assignment slot located to the left of the SLC main office on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz.

Referencing for essays

To avoid charges of plagiarism (see below), 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.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism>.

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.

Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic.

Timetable

WEEK ONE

Lecture Wednesday 6 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 Wednesday 13 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)

Week Two Tutorial: Origins of the Chinese civilisation and the Chinese state
Tutorial questions: Where and how did the Chinese civilisation begin?
Do you think it originated from one location or more?
Where was China around 200BCE? Were people of the warring states called Chinese? How did they identify themselves?

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

WEEK THREE

Lecture Wednesday 20 March
Topic 1 *Confucian Ascendancy*
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 97-117
Topic 2 *Civilized and Barbarian*
Reading: Valerie Hansen, *The Open Empire*, pp. 117-149.

Week Three Tutorial: How to Write Academic Essays in Chinese Studies
Look over the essay topics and give some thought to which one you will write about. This tutorial is designed to help you think about the construction and development of your essay. You should start writing your essay from this week.

Tutorial questions:
Is Confucianism a religion?
What are core values of Confucianism? Can you name a few countries other than China which Confucian influences remain strong?

WEEK FOUR

- Lecture Wednesday 27 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.

Week Four Tutorial: 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?

28 MARCH TO 3 APRIL EASTER HOLIDAYS

WEEK FIVE

- Lecture Wednesday 10 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.

Week Five Tutorial: 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?

WEEK SIX

- Lecture Wednesday 17 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.

Week Six Tutorial: 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 Essay due by 4:00pm Thursday 18 April

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 22 TO 28 APRIL

WEEK SEVEN

- Lecture Wednesday 1 May
Topic 1 *Tibet and the Chinese Empires*
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.

Week Seven Tutorial: 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?

Describe your understanding of the position of Tibet under the rule of Mongols?

WEEK EIGHT

Lecture Wednesday 8 May

Topic 1 *Art and Material Culture*

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

Topic 2 *Gender in China's Past*

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

Week Eight Tutorial: Mid-term essay feedback and discussion

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?

How did Confucianism influence the formation and transformation of gender identities in Chinese society?

WEEK NINE

Lecture Wednesday 15 May

Topic 1 Chinese Literature and Performing Arts

Reading: Yiyang Wang, *The Chinese Novel. The Encyclopaedia of the Novel*, ed. Peter Melville Logan, Oxford: Wiley Publishing House, 2011, 178-180. (On Blackboard)

Topic 2 *Print Culture and Censorship*

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

Week Nine Tutorial: Culture, Commerce and the State

Tutorial questions:

What do you know about the history of Chinese literature?

What constitutes elite Chinese culture?

Examples of popular culture in imperial China?

WEEK TEN

Lecture Wednesday 22 May

Topic 1 *The Manchu Empire and Its Achievements*

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

Week Ten Tutorials: the Last Chinese Monarchy and Chinese Modernity

Tutorial questions:

What do you consider as the achievements and failures of the Qing administration?
What were the measures that strengthened the multicultural empire?
How would you assess the Manchu Empire in terms of China's trajectory towards modernity?

WEEK ELEVEN

Lecture Wednesday 29 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 *Land, Farming, People and Migration;*
Reading: Jacques Gernet, *A History of Chinese Civilisation*, pp. 463-494. (on Blackboard)

COURSE EVALUATIONS, REVIEW AND Q&A RE. TEST

Week Eleven Tutorial: China's Quest for Modernity

Tutorial Questions:

What was China politically at the beginning of the 20th century?
Where was China at the time geographically?
Who were the Chinese people then?

Final essay due 4:00 pm Monday 27 May

WEEK TWELVE

Test 11-12:50 Wednesday 5 June

No Tutorial