Course Description

History 103 is a general survey of Chinese history from antiquity to the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. Although this course follows a chronological sequence, it assumes a topical approach to explore basic patterns and major themes of Chinese history. The lectures will focus on essential features of Chinese civilization as developed in the classical and traditional period (1500 B.C.-1840 A.D.), the disintegration of traditional Chinese society under the impact of Western imperialism in the 19th century, and China's 20th century revolutionary history.

Required Readings


An off-set Reader available at Kinko's copy shop at 620 University Avenue.

Written Assignments and Examinations

1. A mid-term exam (50% identifications; 50% short essays)
2. A final exam (50% identifications; 50% short essays)
3. Two short papers (about 5-8 double-space typewritten pages) based on the readings listed on "Topics and Readings".

Grading: Exams -- 60%
    Papers -- 40%
History 103: (August-December, 1989)

Schedule of Lecture and Required Reading

Sep. 6-8:
1. Introduction
2. The setting: Some General Remarks
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 1
3. The Beginning of Chinese Civilization: Archaeological Discoveries
   Readings: Kwang-chih Chang, "From Archaeology to History: the Neolithic Foundations of Chinese Civilization" & Derk Bodde, "Myths of Ancient China", Reader

Sep. 11-15:
4. Shang Religion: Ancestor Worship and the Prototype of Familial State
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 2
5. The Establishment of the Chou Dynasty

Sep. 18-22:
6. The Decline of the Chou Dynasty: Social and Political Background for the Rise of the Hundred Schools
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 3
7. Intellectual Foundations of the Hundred Schools

Sep. 25-29:
8. Confucianism: Confucius and Mencius
   Reading: Mote, *Intellectual Foundations of China*, chap. 3
Oct. 2-6:
9. Classical Taoism
   Reading: Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China, chap. 4
10. Legalism: Hsun-tzu and Han Fei
    Reading: Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China, chap. 7

Oct. 9-13:
11. The Rise of the Chinese Empire:
    (I) the Establishment of the Ch'in and Han Dynasties
        Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 4
    (II) Imperial Confucianism
        Readings: "The Interaction of Yin and Yang" & Yu-ch'uan Wang, "The Central government of the Former Han Dynasty", Reader

Oct. 16-20:
12. The Period of Disunity
    Readings: "Rules for Visiting" & Lien-sheng Yang, "Great Families of Eastern Han", Reader
13. Challenges to the Imperial System and the Coming of Buddhism
    Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 5

Oct. 23-27: (Oct. 27: Mid-term exam & the first paper due)
14. The Reunification of the Chinese Empire
    Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 6
15. Basic Features of Chinese Political Structure and the Civil Examination System

Reading: Ping-ti Ho, "Social Composition of the Ming-Ch'ing Ruling Class", Reader

Oct. 30-Nov. 3:

16. Social Structure in Traditional China


17. Economic Development in Traditional China

Readings: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chaps. 7-8 & Jung-pang Lo, "The Emergence of China as a Sea Power during the Late Sung and Early Yuan Periods."

Nov. 6-10:

18. China on The Eve of Western Intrusion

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chaps. 9, 10 (pp. 258-269)

19. Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 10 (pp. 269-306)

Nov. 13-17:

20. Imperialism in China

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 12

21. The Taiping Rebellion
Nov. 20-22: (Nov. 23: Thanksgiving day)

22. The Failure of Conservative Modernization
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 11

23. Reform Movement: K'ang Yu-wei, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao & Yen Fu

24. The Boxer Rebellion

Nov. 27-Dec. 1:

25. The Revolution of 1911
   Reading: Benjamin I. Schwartz, "The Chinese Perception of World Order, Past and Present", Reader

26. The May Fourth Movement

Dec. 4-8: (Dec. 8: second paper due)

27. The Introduction of Communism and the Origins of the Chinese Communist Party
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 14 (pp. 437-439)

28. Chiang Kai-shek and Kuomintang China, 1928-49

Dec. 11-15:

29. Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Revolution
   Reading: Fairbank, *China: Tradition and Transformation*, chap. 15

Dec. 16: Final Exam