

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FALL 1989

HISTORY 103
INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN HISTORY: CHINA
CHEN-TE YANG

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

John K. Fairbank and Edwin O. Reischauer, China: Tradition and Transformation (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1989 OR 1978)

F. W. Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China (Alfred A. Knopf, 1989)

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

Reading: Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China, chaps. 1-2

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

Readings: G. William Skinner, "Chinese Peasants and the Closed Community: an Open and Shut Case," F. W. Mote, "The City in Traditional Chinese Civilization", & Yu-kung Kao, "Peasant Rebellion in China," Reader

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

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 13

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

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 14 (pp. 428-437)

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

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 14 (pp. 439-472)

Dec. 11-15:

29. Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Revolution

Reading: Fairbank, China: Tradition and Transformation, chap. 15

Dec. 16: Final Exam