

**HISTORY 103: SURVEY OF CHINESE HISTORY.  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, FALL SEMESTER 2022.**



**Vigorously seize revolution. Wildly promote production.  
Welcome the victorious opening of the Ninth Party Congress.**

**Need for Accommodation**

If there is anything that could affect your class participation or performance and may need accommodation, such as a religious holiday, disability, or mahjong team tournament, please tell me during the first two weeks so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Communications:**

Professor: Joe Dennis.

Office: Humanities 5135

Office Hour: 12:05-1:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Email: dennis3@wisc.edu.

Teaching Assistant: John Tobin

Office: Email Mr. Tobin to arrange a meeting.

Email: jptobin@wisc.edu

Mailboxes on 5<sup>th</sup> floor Humanities (northeast corner). Dennis: Box 5006.

**Meetings:** Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM, 1641 Humanities.

Discussion sections:

Section 301: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:20 p.m., 2653 Humanities.

Section 302: Wednesdays, 4:35-5:25 p.m., 2121 Humanities.

Section 303: Thursdays, 11:00-11:50 a.m., 2631 Humanities.

Section 304: Thursdays, 12:05-12:55 a.m., 2241 Humanities.

**Course description:**

History 103 is an introduction to Chinese history from its beginnings to 1989 (4 credits). The goal of this course is to achieve a basic understanding of the historical origins of Chinese society, government, and culture. We will also work on developing important historical skills, including:

1. Asking Questions: develop the habit of asking historical questions, including questions that may generate new directions for historical inquiry.
2. Finding Sources: learn the logic of footnotes, bibliographies, search engines, libraries, and archives, and consult them to identify and locate source materials.
3. Evaluating Sources: determine the perspective, credibility, and utility of source materials.
4. Developing and Presenting an Argument: use sources appropriately to create, modify, and support tentative conclusions and new questions.
5. Planning Further Research: draw upon preliminary research to develop a plan for further

investigation.

6. Communicating Findings Effectively: make formal and informal, written and oral presentations tailored to specific audiences.

**No Chinese language skills are necessary for this course**, however, if you can read Chinese and wish to use Chinese sources in your paper you may. If you are studying Chinese language it will be helpful for you to learn the characters that Professor Dennis puts on slides.

**Readings:** The following required books are available in the University Bookstore. Additional readings will be available electronically, or on reserve.

Tanner, Harold. *China: A History*. Hackett Publishing. (2009). This can be bought as either a single volume or two volumes. The page numbers on the schedule are keyed to the one-volume edition that is for sale in the University Bookstore.

Gardner, Daniel K. *The Four Books: The Basic Teachings of the Later Confucian Tradition*. Hackett Publishing. (2007).

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro. *Son of the Revolution*.

**Schedule: (R=Thursday).**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes will be mostly lecture, but we will also have discussions and other activities. **Please complete the assigned readings before coming to class on the listed day. Some days we will have short quizzes on the readings for that day.** The schedule may be adjusted as the semester progresses. Abbreviations: FB=*Four Books*, CAH=*China: A History*, SOR=*Son of the Revolution*.

**Week 1**

W Sep 7 Introductions, class information. Discuss Map Quiz Preparation Sheet. Discuss how to take notes and do well in a history class.

W/R Sep 7/8 Discussion section: Make map quiz prep groups. Work on learning the map.

F Sep 9 Lecture: Regional Geography and Language. Read before class: CAH, ix-14 (be sure to read the prefatory materials as well as the main text).

**Happy Mid-Autumn Festival** on Saturday, September 10 (*Zhongqiu jie* 中秋節, fifteenth day of the eighth month on the lunar calendar 農曆八月十五日). Note: In this class, Professor Dennis will use traditional complex forms of Chinese characters (*fantizi* 繁體字) on most lecture slides, not simplified characters, because most historical sources use the complex forms. Serious students of Chinese history or literature need to learn the complex forms.

**Week 2**

M Sep 12 Read before class: CAH, 14-30. Lecture: Origins of Chinese Civilization.

W Sep 14 Read before class: CAH, 31-46. Lecture: Early States: Shang.

W/R Sep 14/15 Discussion section: **MAP QUIZ** followed by discussion of readings through CAH, page 46. Sign up to lead discussion.

F Sep 16 Read before class: CAH, 46-58. Lecture: Early States: Western Zhou.

### Week 3

- M Sep 19 Read before class: CAH, 59-78. Lecture: Early States: Eastern Zhou. Discuss in class selections from *Art of War*.
- W Sep 21 Read before class: FB Intro. and 11-49. Lecture: Confucianism. Hand out debate assignment.
- W/R Sep 21/22 Discussion section: Discuss: CAH, 46-79. FB Intro. and 11-49.
- F Sep 23 **Read before class:** FB, 50-77, plus paragraph 29 (pp. 84-85), para. 42 (p. 96).  
**Readings Quiz on FB up to page 77, plus paragraph 29 (pp. 84-85), para. 42 (p. 96).**

### Week 4

- M Sep 26 Lecture: Daoism. **Read before class: Zhuangzi (on Canvas).** Discuss passages in class. By Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m., post one question you have on anything related to the class on our class Canvas website "Discussion," tab, "Questions for Professor Dennis to Answer in Class on September 28 and 30. Professor Dennis will read through them on Tuesday night.
- W Sep 28 Read before class: "Landers, James. Han Fei's Legalism" (on Canvas in "Files") and CAH, 78-81. **Readings Quiz on readings for today's class.** Lecture: Legalism.
- W/R Sep 28/29 Discussion section: Prepare for next week's debate.
- F Sep 30 Read before class: CAH, 83-92. Lecture: China's first unification: Qin.

### Week 5

- M Oct 3 Catch up on things we did not get to earlier.
- W Oct 5 Debate in class.
- W/R Oct 5/Oct 6 Discussion section: Work on the Debate Assignment write-up.
- F Oct 7 **Debate Assignment write-up due by noon on Canvas, "Assignments."** Read before class: CAH, 92-130. Lecture: Han dynasty.

### Week 6

- M Oct 10 Read before class: CAH, 135-162. Lecture: The period of disunion and the coming of Buddhism. Hand out Museum Field Trip Assignment.
- W Oct 12 Read before class: CAH, 162-178. Lecture: China's second unification.
- W/R Oct 12/Oct 13 Discussion section: Discuss CAH, 92-162.
- F Oct 14 Museum field trip. Follow the directions on the Museum Field Trip Assignment.

### Week 7

- M Oct 17 Read before class: CAH, 178-200. Lecture: Tang China.
- W Oct 19 Read before class: CAH, 201-234. Lecture: Song China.
- W/R Oct 19/Oct 20 Discussion section: **Museum field trip report due in Section.** Pick best drawings. Discuss CAH 178-234 and review for next week's examination. By Thursday, Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m., post on Canvas, ("Discussion," "Questions for Professor Dennis to Answer in Class on October 22") one question you have on anything related to the class. Professor Dennis will read through them on Thursday night and answer as many as possible on Friday.
- F Oct 21 Read before class: CAH, 239-255. Lecture: The Mongols and Yuan Dynasty. Professor Dennis answers questions from Discussion board.

### **Week 8**

M Oct 24 Read before class: CAH, 256-273. Discussion of the Mongols and Yuan Dynasty readings.

W Oct 26 **First Exam.**

W/R Oct 26/Oct 27 Discussion section: Discuss how to do the *Pearl-Sewn Shirt* assignment (download it from Canvas). Discuss how to generate historical questions, then brainstorm potential paper topics. The class is half-over, so you should be thinking about potential topics.

F Oct 28 Read before class: CAH, 281-306. Lecture: Ming China.

### **Week 9**

M Oct 31 Read before class: CAH, 310-335. Lecture: Ming China, continued.

W Nov 2 Hand out final paper assignment. Discuss the nature of history papers, how to get started, how our library works, etc.

W/R Nov 2/Nov 3 Discussion section: ***Pearl-Sewn Shirt* assignment due.** Discuss it in section.

Discuss: CAH, 281-335.

F Nov 4 Lecture: Early Contact with Europe.

### **Week 10**

M Nov 7 Read before class: CAH, 340-375. Lecture: Qing Overview.

W Nov 9 Read before class: CAH, 379-386. Lecture: Opium War.

W/R Nov 9/ Nov 10 Discussion section: Discuss readings

F Nov 11 Library day. Go to Memorial Library to look for sources for your papers. Mr.

Tobin will reserve one of the group meeting rooms in the library and sit there to answer questions that come up. Afterwards, in one paragraph write about what you found and problems you encountered. Post results in Canvas, "Assignments," "Library Day Paragraphs," by Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

### **Week 11**

M Nov 14 Read before class: CAH, 386-394. Lecture: Qing Rebellions.

W Nov 16 Read before class: CAH, 394-399. Lecture: Self-strengthening.

W/R Nov 16/ Nov 17 Discussion section: Discuss CAH, 386-399.

F Nov 18 Read before class: CAH, 399-412. Lecture: Intensification of Imperialism.

### **Week 12**

M Nov 21 Read before class: CAH, 419-425. Lecture: Qing Collapse.

W Nov 23. Video: *China in Revolution*.

**NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

F Nov 25 **NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING**

### **Week 13**

M Nov 28 History skills day (exercises in class). No required reading for today, but get ahead on upcoming readings, or work on final paper to avoid December time crunch.

W Nov 30 Read before class: CAH, 425-440. Lecture: Early Republic and May Fourth Movement.

W/R Nov 30 / Dec 1 Discussion section: Meet in small groups to discuss papers. Discuss CAH, 425-440.

F Dec 2 Read before class: CAH, 440-52. Lecture: Marxism and the Rise of the CCP.

#### **Week 14**

M Dec 5 Read before class: CAH, 457-495. Lecture: Republican China, WWII, and Civil War.

W Dec 7 Read before class: CAH, 501-525. Lecture: China in the 1950s and 1960s.

W/R Dec 7/Dec 8 Discussion section: **Final paper drafts due. Bring three copies to class for peer review.**

F Dec 9 Read before class: *Son of the Revolution*, up to page 137. Quiz on *Son of the Revolution*. Lecture: Cultural Revolution. Discuss *Son of the Revolution*.

#### **Week 15**

M Dec 12 Read before class: CAH, 542-578. Lecture: Opening and Reform.

W Dec 14 **Second Examination (not cumulative). Final paper due** in Canvas "Assignments" "Final Paper."

**NO FINAL EXAM**

#### **Extra Credit Opportunities:**

It is important to get used to attending talks by visiting scholars. These can open you up to ideas that are not well represented on campus and help you make connections. Thus, you can get 1 point extra on your final grade for each talk you attend that clearly connects to the study of China (maximum of five points). Many students are able to bump up their grade by attending talks. Write a few sentences about any talk you attend and email the writeup to Professor Dennis within three days of the talk. Professor Dennis will announce talks that he notices. If you see a talk you would like to attend but are unsure if you can get extra credit, email Professor Dennis about it before hand.

#### Quizzes:

"The Master said: To learn and at due times to repeat what one has learnt, is that not after all a pleasure?" *The Analects of Confucius*, Waley translation, Book I, 1.

We will have short quizzes whenever I am so inclined (usually if I sense people are not doing the readings before class). They may be unannounced and cover the assigned readings and lecture material. So keep up and be prepared! **Quizzes cannot be made up** and are counted as part of your class participation grade. I will drop one quiz for everyone, so if you miss one it will not affect your grade. If you get seriously ill and will miss a lot of class, let me know so that we can work out a different plan. The **quizzes will be at the beginning of class** and only go for a few minutes and we can't wait for late arrivals who can't finish on time. So if you are going to be late you can submit a one-page summary of the reading being quizzed by 4:00 p.m on the day of the quiz. If you are going to miss class, submit the summary before class. Even if you submit a summary, if you miss class it still could lower your grade in accordance with the attendance policy, which can be found below.

Grades:

Class Participation/Discussion (includes quizzes on readings)	22%
Map Quiz	5%
Debate Assignment	8%
Museum Field Trip and Report	5%
<i>Pearl-Sewn Shirt</i> assignment	5%
First exam	20%
Second exam (not cumulative)	20%
Final Paper, 1700-1900 words (including title, notes, bibliography)	15%

Please note that participation counts more than anything else. “Participation” means you are prepared, alert, and involved in discussions. This means that when you come to class you must have already read the assignment, thought about it, and noted highlights of what was said and what was not said. You will have the opportunity to lead discussion of readings during the semester and will be graded on this. Mr. Tobin and I will decide the participation grade mainly on our impression of your overall contribution to discussion and class exercises.

**Attendance:** Generally speaking, if you are not physically or mentally present, or not complying with class and university policies, you are not participating. That will hurt your grade. If you must be absent, contact Professor Dennis or Mr. Tobin in advance. Keep us apprised of anything that could significantly impair your studies. Because everyone has other things to do, gets sick, has an out-of-town sporting event, or just needs a day off, **you may miss three lectures and one discussion without penalty**. After that, each absence will lower your class participation grade by five points. If you miss more than one-quarter of the classes, you will fail the course. You may not miss on an exam day, or on a day in which you are scheduled to lead discussion or make a presentation, unless you get prior approval.

I apply imperial Chinese theories of social control to grading. My framework recognizes both the coercive power of the law and the encouraging power of moral example. Poor grades may result from either transgressions or nescience.<sup>1</sup> Transgressions, such as failure to read an assignment, failure to carefully revise papers before turning them in, lazy thinking, etc., are dealt with using Legalist principles, “if the lord above severely punishes and rewards lightly, then it expresses that the ruler loves the people... By punishments eliminate punishments.”<sup>2</sup>

Nescience, however, is students’ natural state at the beginning of each course. It shall be approached with encouragement, assistance, and compassion (unless caused by transgressions). “We can master things we originally did not understand. We not only are capable of destroying the old world, we also can create a new world.” Chairman Mao, 1949.

Paper Format:

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<sup>1</sup> You will come across many new terms during this course. Grandma gave you that dictionary for a reason. When the term is not in your dictionary, which occurs often, check a bigger dictionary, such as OED, or ask me.

<sup>2</sup> Shang-chün shu chieh-ku ting-pen, Chu Shih-ch’e, 1966.



**Prior to handing in your first assignment you must read and master the Writing Center's help page on how to avoid plagiarism:**

**<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quoting/sources/>**

Late Assignments:

I operate on a tight schedule. If you hand in an assignment late, you mess with my schedule. Remember the immutable law of Karma! Also, you will be docked 5 points per day late.

Handouts and Assignments:

If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting any handouts or assignments made. Ask me or check with someone from class. The Master said: "Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful."

If you have questions or are having any problems, please contact me. Confucius said: "He was quick and eager to learn, he was not ashamed to seek advice."

Electronics and Recording:

Students are allowed to use laptops or phones to take notes or look up things related to class, but doing things unrelated to class is distracting to both the person doing it and the surrounding students. Violations will result in a reduction in your class participation grade.

You may record lectures or discussion only for the purpose of studying and reviewing for exams. If you or someone else makes a recording of any part of a class, you may not post it online, circulate it in any way to someone outside of class, or show it to anyone who is not in the class. You may share it with a classmate who missed lecture. We all must be able to trust that the class is a place for free and open discussion where we can talk about sensitive topics without having to worry about classmates publicizing what we say. Violation of this policy is a very serious matter.