

HISTORY 103

Introduction to the History of China

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fall Semester 2015

Lectures:

MWF 9:55-10:45 Humanities 1651

Discussion Sections:

T 9:55-10:45 Humanities 2625

T 12:05-12:55 Humanities 2241

TH 1:20-2:10 Humanities 2125

TH 3:30-4:20 Humanities 2619

Instructor: Professor Shelly Chan

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Office Hours: M 10:50-11:50, 2:15-3:15 & by appointment; Humanities 4120

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Sam Porter

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Office Hours: W 11:00-12:30 & by appointment; Humanities 4268

GOALS

This course surveys Chinese history from 1500 B.C.E. to the present, covering aspects of philosophy, religion, government, economy, and society. Students will gain a broad understanding of China's rich cultural heritage, vast historical transformations, and close connections with the world. They will also learn to think and communicate clearly and intelligently about the significance of China's past through interpreting a wide range of sources and perspectives.

READINGS

The following books are required, available at the University Bookstore for purchase and at the College Library Reserves for short-term loans.

John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006. Second enlarged edition.

Daniel K. Gardner, *A Very Short History of Confucianism*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Leta Hong Fincher, *Leftover Women: A Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China*. London & New York: Zed Books, 2014.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: 9/2 - 9/4 (No Sections)

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 1-25.

W: Welcome and Course Introduction.

F: Geography and Culture. **Twitter self-introductions due before class. Assignment 1 distributed.**

Week 2: 9/7 - 9/11 (Sections begin this week to discuss Assignment 1)

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 29-45.

M: **Labor Day. No Class.**

W: Chronology and Dynasties; Shang and Zhou in the Bronze Age (ca. 1500-771 B.C.E.).

F: Language and Writing; oracle bones.

Week 3: 9/14 - 9/18 (Assignment 1 due in Sections)

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 46-57; Gardner, 1-47.

M: Warring States (770-256 B.C.E.) and Hundred Schools of Thought; Confucianism.

W: Daoism and Legalism.

F: First unification (256 B.C.E.-200 C.E.); Qin dynasty and the First Emperor.

Week 4: 9/21 - 9/25

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 57-87; Gardner, 87-111.

M: Han dynasty; Confucianism and the state.

W: Period of great division; spread of Buddhism.

F: Second unification (581-960); Tang cosmopolitanism.

Week 5: 9/28 - 10/2

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 88-127; Gardner, 70-86.

M: Commercial Revolution in the Song (960-1276). **Assignment 2 & Midterm 1 Study Guide distributed.**

W: Yuan dynasty (1215-1368) and the Mongol empire; Marco Polo.

F: Ming China (1368-1644); Zheng He's voyages and tribute system.

Week 6: 10/5 - 10/9 (Sections meet at the Chazen Museum of Art for Assignment 2)

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 128-161.

M: Late Ming, Europe, and the New World.

W: Qing China (1644-1911); Manchus and Hans.

F: Jesuits in the Ming and Qing.

Week 7: 10/12 - 10/16 (Assignment 2 due in Sections)

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 187-205.

M: Tea and the Opium Wars.

W: Midterm 1 review.

F: **Midterm 1.**

Week 8: 10/19 - 10/23

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 206-256.

M: Taiping Rebellion.

W: Restoration and Self-Strengthening.

F: Road to the 1911 Revolution.

Week 9: 10/26 - 10/30

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 257-311; Gardner, 112-120.

M: The Early Republic; May Fourth Movement 1919.

W: Nationalists (GMD) and Communists (CCP).
 F: Film: *China in Revolution*. **Assignment 3 distributed.**

Week 10: 11/2 - 11/6

No Reading.

M: Republican Shanghai.

W: **Library Research Session for Assignment 3.** Details TBA.

F: Republican Shanghai, continued.

Week 11: 11/9 - 11/13

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 312-367.

M: Japan's Invasion and the Civil War; mini guest lecture on Japan by Sam Porter.

W: Communist Revolution, 1949; land and marriage reform.

F: Collectivization and industrialization.

Week 12: 11/16 - 11/20

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 368-405.

M: Great Leap Forward. **Assignment 3 due in class.**

W: Cultural Revolution.

F: Analyzing Mao-period posters: <http://www.chineseposters.net>

Week 13: 11/23 - 11/25 (No Sections)

Read ahead on Hong Fincher, *Leftover Women*.

M: Film: *Morning Sun*, <http://www.morningsun.org>

W: *Morning Sun*, continued.

F: **Thanksgiving. No Class.**

Week 14: 11/30 - 12/4

Read: Fairbank and Goldman, 406-451; Hong Fincher, *Leftover Women*.

M: Deng Xiaoping's reforms. **Midterm 2 Study Guide and Assignment 4 distributed.**

W: Tian'anmen Democracy Movement.

F: "China's Rise."

Week 15: 12/7 - 12/11

M: Discuss *Leftover Women* and report on China in the social media.

W: Midterm 2 review.

F: **Midterm 2.**

Week 16: 12/14

M: Course conclusion. **Assignment 4 due in class.**

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Attendance and Participation	20%
Short Assignments (5%, 5%, 15%, 15%)	40%
Midterm Exam 1	20%

Midterm Exam 2

20%

****If you need any accommodation due to disabilities, religious observances, or other obligations that may affect your course performance, please contact Professor Chan or Mr. Porter right away.***

****General announcements are made in lectures and occasionally via email. Be sure to check your wisc account at least once a day. Lecture powerpoints, assignments, and handouts are posted on Learn@UW***

****You must complete all the requirements listed below in order to pass this course.***

Attendance and Participation 20%

1. Lectures and Discussion Sections

We keep records of everyone's attendance and participation (watch for the sign-in sheet), but you may miss up to THREE lectures and ONE section meeting without hurting this portion of the grade. These unexcused absences should be used toward sickness or emergencies only; note that you are still responsible for any material or announcement missed. We would love to see you in every class and section meeting because the course covers 3500 years of history in 15 weeks, and the only way to do so is to be rather selective, concise, and fast-paced. Missing one day is sometimes missing several centuries; think time travel in an extreme sci-fi mode! Do your part by completing the weekly reading by your section meeting and be prepared to participate fully in discussion. Please refrain from using electronic devices for purposes unrelated to class, as a courtesy for your fellow classmates, TA, and Professor, though except for the following reason and with moderation. Teaching and learning are both hard work; I appreciate your thoughtfulness and cooperation.

2. Twitter Experiment for Extra Credit up to 5%

Tweet about class material and increase your participation grade. To begin, sign up for a twitter account exclusively for this course or use an existing account. Use the class hashtag **#uw103** If possible, please put up a profile picture. We will be collecting everyone's usernames so we know to whom we may give the extra credit. Retweeting something is good; adding a pithy commentary or replying to a fellow student is even better.

- a. Before class on Friday 9/4: In one tweet of 140 characters, introduce yourself and tell us why you are attending History 103 or one thing you would like to learn about (show us some enthusiasm!). Reply to 3 other class members and choose 10 news feeds on China to follow this semester. Pick a wide range of feeds—academic, government, NGO, journalist, expert, citizen—you need that to complete Assignment 4, see next page. You may check out what I follow on China (@ShellyPSChan) and modify your selections later, but you must follow at least 10 feeds at all time.
- b. Throughout the semester: Contribute questions, comments, or links relevant to the course or Assignment 4 for sharing and discussion. Any other matters should

- be communicated via email to the Professor or TA. Friendly tweets that help build a community are also welcome so long as not everything is cat videos.
- c. Remember, everything you tweet is public and may be retweeted. Treat this experiment as part of your professional development in a digital age. Be conscious, constructive, and kind.

Short Assignments 40%

You will be given instructions for each assignment in advance and must complete the work by the due date. We cannot accept any late submissions unless you have an official note.

1. Oracle Bones (1 page, 5%)

Analyze a set of oracle-bone inscriptions from the ancient Shang period. What do they tell us about the Shang's style of government, military history, religious beliefs and rituals, and society? Due in sections during the week of Sept. 14.

2. Porcelain Travels (1 page, 5%)

You will be visiting the Chinese and European porcelain exhibits at the Chazen Museum of Art. What do the objects reveal about China, Europe, and their influences on each other through trade? Due in sections during the week of Oct. 12.

3. Shanghai Stories (3-4 pages, 15%)

Known as "Paris of the East," Shanghai during the 1920s-1930s inspired the creation of numerous novels and movies in China and the West. Attend a library research workshop and create a fictional character that is also historically plausible. Aside from a paper, we welcome any other pre-approved, creative format of the final product. Due in class on Nov. 16.

4. China Now (3-4 pages, 15%)

Having read Leta Hong Fincher's *Leftover Women* and followed China in the social media for the entire semester, write an essay about the challenges facing China in the twentieth-first century and explain how its government and citizens are responding to them. Be sure to include a range of viewpoints. Like the last assignment, we welcome any pre-approved, creative format of the final product. Due in class on Dec. 14.

Midterm Exams 40%

You will receive study guides on keywords, names, maps, and other information ahead of time. The second midterm is non-accumulative and there is no final exam. To do well, you must show mastery of BOTH lectures and readings. Study groups are a great idea. Make-ups can only be arranged with an official note. Dates: Oct. 16 and Dec. 11.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	Exceptional
AB	88-92%	Strong
B	83-87%	Good
BC	78-82%	Fair

C	70-77%	Satisfactory
D	60-69%	Partially Satisfactory
F	0-59%	Fail

POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great State University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth may be found.

--The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, September 18, 1894.

Academic freedom and integrity are central to the truth-finding mission of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, therefore we support all free and respectful expressions and do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating of any kind. Share the ideas you have and also remember your duty to acknowledge and consider those of others. We pledge to do our best to help you engage in “continual and fearless sifting and winnowing,” whether it is to discover, improve, or experiment. Please do not be afraid to ask us any questions.

Read the **Statement on Academic Integrity** from the Dean of Students Office:

<http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/students/>

Chicago Manual of Style is the recommended citation style for this course:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

New this semester, **The History Lab** is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process—choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts—the History Lab staff is here to help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. For a one-on-one consultation: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>

Browse around **The Writing Center** and learn how to write well and avoid plagiarism:

<http://www.writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html>

Check out research guides, tips, and tricks at **UW-Madison Libraries**:

<http://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/>

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/help/research-tips-tricks/>

Additional References

The Chicago Manual of Style. 16th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Strunk, William, Jr., and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 4th ed., Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

****Continued enrollment binds you to this document. Welcome to History 103!***