

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Spring 1987

History 103

History of China

Lin & Meisner

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 103 is an introductory and yet reasonably comprehensive survey of political, social, economic, cultural and philosophical developments in Chinese history from the dawn of Chinese civilization (circa 1750 B.C.) to the present. Though a chronological sequence will be followed, the vast areas of subject matters that are covered in this course necessitate a topical approach to provide depth in understanding the basic patterns and themes of Chinese history. The course is concerned in particular with an examination of the essential features of Chinese civilization developed in the classical and traditional period (1500 B.C.--1840 A.D.) their decline and fall, owing in part to the impact of the West during the 19th century, and the revolutionary history of the 20th century China.

LECTURES

Two lectures per week, supplemented by discussion sessions. Considerable use is made of audio-visual materials in class. Lectures will parallel but not duplicate the contents of the assigned readings.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

- (1) A mid-term in-class examination (50% identifications; 50% short essays)
- (2) A final in-class examination (50% identifications; 50% short essays)
- (3) Two 5-8 page typewritten (double-spaced) essays on topics selected from the attached lists of "Topics and REadings."

GRADING SYSTEM

Essays--40%; Exams--50%; Contribution to Discussion Sections--10%.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

F. W. Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China (Alfred A. Knopf, 1971).

An off-set Reader to be purchased at Bob's Copy Center at University Square.

Jonathan Spence, The Gate of Heavenly Peace (Penguin).

Reading assignments will be announced in class several weeks in advance.

- Jan. 20: Introduction: Problems in the Study of Chinese History and the History of China as a Course in Liberal Education (Lin & Meisner)
- Jan. 22: Salient Features of Archaeological Evidence and their Implications for Chinese History (Lin)
- Jan. 27: The Development of the Sociopolitical Order in the Shang and Chou Dynasties (ca. 1751-256 B.C.) (Lin)
- Jan. 29: Religious Consciousness in Ancient China and the Birth of Chinese Philosophy (Lin)
- Feb. 3: Confucius and Confucianism (Lin)
- Feb. 5: Classical Taoism (Lin)
- Feb. 10: The Breakdown of Feudal Society and the Rise of the Chinese Empire (221 B.C - 220 A.D.) (Lin)
- Feb. 12: The Period of Disunity and Challenges to the Imperial System (220-589) (Lin)
- Feb. 17: The Reunification of the Chinese Empire (Sui and T'ang Dynasties) and the Vitality of the Traditional Political System (Lin)
- Feb. 19: The Achievements of Chinese Letters, the Apogee of Fine Arts, and their Taoist and Confucian Sources (Lin)
- Feb. 24: Economic Transformation in the Late Imperial Era (Lin)
- Feb. 26: Feudalism in Chinese History (Meisner)
- Mar. 3: Capitalism in Chinese History and the Abortiveness of Capitalism in Traditional China (Meisner)
- Mar. 5: State and Society before the Western Impact (Lin)
- Mar. 10: Cultural and Intellectual Trends on the Eve of the Western Intrusion (Lin)
- Mar. 12: MIDSEMESTER EXAM
- Spring Recess (March 14-22)
- Mar. 24: The "Sinocentric world view" and Early Sino-Western Relations (Meisner)
- Mar. 26: The Opium Wars and the Unequal Treaties (Meisner)
- Mar. 31: The Taiping Rebellion (Meisner)
- Apr. 2: The Role of Imperialism in Modern Chinese History (Meisner)
- Apr. 7: The Failure of Conservative Modernization, 1865-95 (Meisner)
- Apr. 9: Reform and Revolution (1895-1911) (Meisner)
- Apr. 14: The Modern Chinese Intelligentsia: Nationalism, Liberalism, and Socialism (Meisner)
- Apr. 16: The May Fourth Movement (Lin)
- Apr. 21: The Introduction of Marxism and the Origins of the Chinese Communist Party (Meisner)
- Apr. 23: Kuomintang (Guomindang) China, 1927-49 (Meisner)
- Apr. 28: The Maoist Revolution (Meisner)
- Apr. 30: The People's Republic of China: The Maoist Era (1949-76) (Meisner)
- May 5: China Since Mao (Meisner)
- May 7: Chinese Communism and the Chinese Tradition (Meisner)

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