

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

SEMESTER I YEAR 76-77

History 493

Social and Intellectual History of China,
1400 B.C. to 589 A.D.

Mr. Lin

History 493 is concerned with major topics in the history of Chinese thought, culture, and society from ancient times to the end of the Six Dynasties period. While this course is not conducted at the introductory level, anyone who has little or no background in classical and traditional Chinese thought and history but is interested in the subject matter and prepared to fill the gap by reading the first five chapters of E.O. Reischauer and J.K. Fairbank, East Asia: The Great Tradition in the first two weeks and to read the required readings thereafter, is welcome.

The course will focus on the social and cultural backgrounds of the rise of ancient Chinese philosophies; the formation and nature of the Chou feudal society; the origins of Confucian humanism; the metaphysical, ethical, and socio-political theories of classical Confucianism; the doctrines and evolution of classical Taoism, Moism, and Legalism; the establishment of the Chinese imperial state and its impact on Chinese thought; the transformation of Confucianism in the Han; the disintegration of the Han empire and the rise of Neo-Taoism.

Since it is obviously impossible to cover all aspects of the evolution of Chinese thought and society from 1400 B.C. to 589 A.D. in the span of 15 weeks, it seems more interesting and profitable to engage in some in-depth analysis of some major topics as mentioned above. The main aspects of the history of Chinese Buddhism will not be discussed. Anyone who is interested in the history of Chinese Buddhism is urged to read independently two excellent studies: E. Zürcher, The Buddhist Conquest of China (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1959); Kenreth Ch'en, Buddhism in China (Princeton University Press, 1964; also available in Princeton paperback reprinting edition).

LECTURES

Lectures twice weekly, supplemented by discussion sections.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

(1) a mid-term paper, for which themes will be determined in individual conferences between students and the instructor; (2) a take-home overnight final examination which takes the form of writing 3 short essays out of 4 topics.

GRADING SYSTEM

The final grade will be determined according to the following: mid-term paper: 40%; final exam: 50%; performance in discussion sections: 10%

REQUIRED READINGS

See next page.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- E. O. Reischauer & J. K. Fairbank, East Asia = The Great Traditions
(Houghton Mifflin)
F. W. Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China (Alfred A. Knopf)
Cho-yun Hsu, Ancient China in Transition (Stanford)
D. C. Lau, Mencius (Penguin)
Wing-tsit Chan, tr., The Way of Lao Tzu (Bobbs-Merrill)
Max Kaltenmark, Lao Tzu and Taoism (Stanford)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Fung Yu-lan, A History of Chinese Philosophy, Vol. I (Princeton Univ. Press)
E. Balazo, Chinese Civilization & Bureaucracy (Yale U.P.)