

**HISTORY 103: SURVEY OF CHINESE HISTORY.  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, FALL SEMESTER 2021.**



**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 Hours: Wednesdays, 1:20-2:15; and by appointment.

Office Phone: 263-1853 (do not leave messages).

Email: dennis3@wisc.edu.

Teaching Assistant: Ye LIN

Office: Email Mr. Lin to arrange a meeting.

Email: ylin385@wisc.edu

Mailboxes on 4<sup>th</sup> floor Humanities (northeast corner). Dennis: Box 4016.

**Meetings:** Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM, 1131 Humanities.

Discussion sections:

Section 301: Wednesdays, 1:20-2:10 PM, 6109 Sewell Social Sciences.

Section 302: Wednesdays, 2:25-3:15 PM, 6105 Sewell Social Sciences.

Section 303: Thursdays, 8:50 AM - 9:40 AM, 6109 Sewell Social Sciences.

Section 304: Thursdays, 9:55 AM - 10:45 AM, 6310 Sewell Social Sciences.

**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, however, if you can read Chinese and wish to use Chinese sources in your paper you may.

**COVID Policies: If you are not willing to fully comply with the University's COVID mitigation policies, drop the class now.** We have about 80 students in a room with no windows in a decrepit building with a lousy HVAC system. According to recent notices from administrators, only 90% of students are vaccinated. Thus, if our class is typical, we would have around eight unvaccinated students. Also, vaccinated people can still transmit the virus if they have a breakthrough case. Thus we all must still wear masks.

If you feel sick, test positive, or are quarantined due to a close contact who tests positive, don't come to class. Let Professor Dennis or Mr. Lin know as soon as possible so that we can work out how to deal with missed classes.

**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 8 Introductions, class information. Hand out Map Quiz preparation sheet. Discuss how to take notes and do well in a history class.

W/R Sep 8/9 Discussion section: Make map quiz prep groups. Work on learning the map.

F Sep 10 Lecture: Regional Geography and Language. Read before class: CAH, ix-14 (be sure to read the prefatory materials as well as the main text).

### **Week 2**

M Sep 13 Read before class: CAH, 14-30. Lecture: Origins of Chinese Civilization.

W Sep 15 Read before class: CAH, 31-46. Lecture: Early States: Shang.  
W/R Sep 15/16 Discussion section: **MAP QUIZ** followed by discussion of readings through CAH, page 46. Sign up to lead discussion.  
F Sep 17 Read before class: CAH, 46-58. Lecture: Early States: Western Zhou.

### Week 3

M Sep 20 Read before class: CAH, 59-78. Lecture: Early States: Eastern Zhou. Discuss in class selections from *Art of War*.  
W Sep 22 Read before class: FB Intro. and 11-49. Lecture: Confucianism. Hand out debate assignment.  
W/R Sep 22/23 Discussion section: Discuss: CAH, 46-79. FB Intro. and 11-49. Mr. Lin will talk about the Mid-Autumn festival, which was September 21.  
F Sep 24 **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 27 Lecture: Daoism. 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 29 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 29/30 Discussion section: Prepare for next week's debate.  
F Oct 1 Read before class: CAH, 83-92. Lecture: China's first unification: Qin.

### Week 5

M Oct 4 Video on Chinese holidays. Catch up on things we did not get to.  
W Oct 6 Debate in class.  
W/R Oct 6/Oct 7 Discussion section: Work on the Debate Assignment write-up.  
F Oct 8 **Debate Assignment write-up due by noon on Canvas, "Assignments."** Read before class: CAH, 92-130. Lecture: Han dynasty.

### Week 6

M Oct 11 Read before class: CAH, 135-162. Lecture: The period of disunion and the coming of Buddhism. Hand out Museum Field Trip Assignment.  
W Oct 13 Museum field trip. Meet in the Chazen Museum, the gallery on the second floor with the Buddhist sculptures.  
W/R Oct 13/Oct 14 Discussion section: Discuss CAH, 92-162.  
F Oct 15 Read before class: CAH, 162-178. Lecture: China's second unification.

### Week 7

M Oct 18 Read before class: CAH, 178-200. Lecture: Tang China. Video on marriage.  
W Oct 20 Read before class: CAH, 201-234. Lecture: Song China.  
W/R Oct 20/Oct 21 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 22 Read before class: CAH, 239-255. Lecture: The Mongols and Yuan Dynasty. Professor Dennis answers questions from Discussion board.

### **Week 8**

M Oct 25 Read before class: CAH, 256-273. Discussion of the Mongols and Yuan Dynasty readings.

W Oct 27 **First Exam.**

W/R Oct 27/Oct 28 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 29 Read before class: CAH, 281-306. Lecture: Ming China.

### **Week 9**

M Nov 1 Read before class: CAH, 310-335. Lecture: Ming China, continued.

W Nov 3 Hand out final paper assignment. Discuss the nature of history papers, how to get started, how our library works, etc.

W/R Nov 3/Nov 4 Discussion section: ***Pearl-Sewn Shirt* assignment due.** Discuss it in section.

Discuss: CAH, 281-335.

F Nov 5 Lecture: Early Contact with Europe.

### **Week 10**

M Nov 8 Read before class: CAH, 340-375. Lecture: Qing Overview.

W Nov 10 Read before class: CAH, 379-386. Lecture: Opium War.

W/R Nov 10/ Nov 11 Discussion section: Discuss readings

F Nov 12 Library day. Go to Memorial Library to look for sources for your papers. Mr. Lin 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 15 Read before class: CAH, 386-394. Lecture: Qing Rebellions.

W Nov 17 Read before class: CAH, 394-399. Lecture: Self-strengthening.

W/R Nov 17/ Nov 18 Discussion section: Discuss CAH, 386-399.

F Nov 19 Read before class: CAH, 399-412. Lecture: Intensification of Imperialism.

### **Week 12**

M Nov 22 Read before class: CAH, 419-425. Lecture: Qing Collapse.

W Nov 24. Video: *China in Revolution*.

**NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

F Nov 26 **NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING**

### Week 13

M Nov 29 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 Dec 1 Read before class: CAH, 425-440. Lecture: Early Republic and May Fourth Movement.

W/R Dec 1/ Dec 2 Discussion section: Meet in small groups to discuss papers. Discuss CAH, 425-440.

F Dec 3 Read before class: CAH, 440-52. Lecture: Marxism and the Rise of the CCP.

### Week 14

M Dec 6 Read before class: CAH, 457-495. Lecture: Republican China, WWII, and Civil War.

W Dec 8 Read before class: CAH, 501-525. Lecture: China in the 1950s and 1960s.

W/R Dec 8/Dec 9 Discussion section: **Final paper drafts due. Bring three copies to class for peer review.**

F Dec 10 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 13 Read before class: CAH, 542-578. Lecture: Opening and Reform.

W Dec 15 **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). Write a few sentences about any talk you attend and email the writeup to Professor Dennis within three days of the talk. Here are a few talks I know of so far:

**DOUBLE POINT TALK:** Thursday, Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m., Law School lower level Room 2260. Taiwan-U.S. talk by the Republic of China (Taiwan) representative to the U.S., Bi-Khim Hsiao, who is the first woman to hold this role.

- Tue Oct 5, noon at North Hall, China trade talk by Lizhi Liu, Georgetown U. (Faculty host Reed Lei)
- Wed Oct 13, 4 p.m. in 206 Ingraham Hall, Rural Sichuan papermakers talk by Jacob Eyforth, U. of Chicago. (Faculty host Judd Kinzley)
- Mon Oct 18, 4 p.m. in 206 Ingraham Hall, Flower painting in Ming China talk by Katie Ryor, Carleton College. (Faculty host Yuhang Li)
- Tue Oct 26, 4 p.m. webinar, Media activism in China talk by Guobin Yang, U Penn. (Faculty host is Kaiping Chen)
- Tue Nov 9, 4 p.m. webinar, Transporting jade in the Qing, lecture by Yulian Wu, Michigan State. (Faculty host is Yuhang Li)

### 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.

### 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, 1400-1600 words (not including footnotes and 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. Lin 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, such as wearing a mask, you are not participating. That will hurt your grade. If you must be absent, call or e-mail Professor Dennis or Mr. Lin 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>

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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’è, 1966.

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:

The final paper must be submitted as an electronic copy uploaded to our Canvas Assignments folder. The document should use one-inch margins, 12-point type, and double spacing, except in quotations, title, and footnotes.

The above format rule is not designed to stifle creativity, it simply provides uniformity and ease of reading. You may of course, where desired or necessary, incorporate graphics, video, sound, performance art, etc. If you want to do something other than mere writing, talk to me in advance so we can determine requirements.

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“When the Great Tao is lost sight of they try to compensate by being clever. This only breeds hypocrisy and sleight-of-hand.”<sup>3</sup>

Wherever I have specified the length of a paper, you are not to exceed the upper limit. For example, if the assigned length is 1400-1600 words, you are not to write beyond 1600. A lean 1600 beats a flabby 3000. Learn proper editing or you will be sentenced to life exile in a malarial region. If you write 2000 words, we will simply cross off the last 600, tell you that your paper stopped in mid-sentence and lacked a conclusion. Such papers never score well. If your paper is too long, just revise it one more time, tighten up flabby phrasing, and cut useless and redundant statements. **Editing to a target length is an important life skill.**

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Plagiarism:

Question: What’s the policy?

Answer: “The proverb says: Don’t insult a friend’s wife or bully his concubine. You’ve done both you impudent ape! Come here and let me have a whack at you!” - Ox Demon King to Monkey (Sun Wukong) in *Journey to the West*. Think of your assignments as your teacher’s beloved.

Question: What is plagiarism?

Answer: Review the UW policy or ask me before submitting your paper. If you ask me in advance whether you can present material in a certain way, it is harmonious education. If you just present another’s work without attribution, hoping you will not get caught, it will also be educational, however, the lesson learned will be that, indeed, the lot of sentient beings is to suffer.

Question: What will happen to me if I plagiarize?

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<sup>3</sup> *Tao Te Ching*, article eighteen, Kwok, Palmer, Ramsay translation, 1993.

Answer: *Ling chi* 凌遲, or “death by slicing,” a Chinese and Mongol punishment for heinous crimes in imperial times. In contrast to simple decapitation, *ling chi* extended the suffering and forced the condemned person to dishonor their parents by defiling their body. In addition, the University will take action, such as expelling your remnant parts.

**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/quotingsources/>**

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.