

**HISTORY 103: SURVEY OF CHINESE HISTORY.  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, FALL SEMESTER 2023.**



**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.

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Mailbox 5006 (5<sup>th</sup> floor Humanities, northeast corner by elevator).

Teaching Assistant: Ma Yirui (surname is Ma)

Office: Humanities 4266

Office Hours: By appointment.

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Mailbox: 4070. (4<sup>th</sup> floor Humanities, northeast corner by elevator).

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

Discussion sections:

Section 301: Thursdays, 11:00-11:50 a.m., 2115 Humanities.

Section 302: Thursdays, 12:05-12:55 a.m., 2241 Humanities.

Section 303: Thursdays, 3:30-4:20 p.m., 2631 Humanities.

Section 304: Thursdays, 4:35-5:25 p.m., 2631 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 assignments you may. If you are studying Chinese language it will be helpful for you to learn the characters that Professor Dennis puts on slides. 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.

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

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

F Sep 8 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 11 Read before class: CAH, 14-30. Lecture: Origins of Chinese Civilization.

W Sep 13 Read before class: CAH, 31-46. Lecture: Early States: Shang.

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

F Sep 15 Read before class: CAH, 46-58. Lecture: Early States: Western Zhou.

**Week 3**

M Sep 18 Read before class: CAH, 59-78. Lecture: Early States: Eastern Zhou. Discuss in class selections from *Art of War*.

W Sep 20 Read before class: FB Intro. and 11-49. Lecture: Confucianism. Hand out debate assignment.

R Sep 21 Discussion section: Discuss: CAH, 46-79. FB Intro. and 11-49.

R Sep 21 4:30 p.m. Extra Credit Talk @ Union South “The Importance of Being Assertive with China: A European view of a dangerous and newly framed gravitational pull” by Jean-Francois Di Meglio, Chair, Sciences Po and Asia Centre.

F Sep 22 **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 25 Lecture: Daoism. **Read before class: Zhuangzi (on Canvas).** Discuss passages in class.

W Sep 27 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. Brief introduction to the Mid-Autumn Festival.

R Sep 28 Discussion section: Prepare for next week’s debate. If you are not ready by the end of section, make arrangements to meet up to finish preparation.

F Sep 29 **NO CLASS Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!** (*Zhongqiu jie* 中秋節, fifteenth day of the eighth month on the lunar calendar 農曆八月十五日).

#### Week 5

M Oct 2 Read before class: CAH, 83-92. Lecture: China’s first unification: Qin.

W Oct 4 Debate in class.

R Oct 5 Discussion section: Work on the Debate Assignment write-up.

R Oct 5, 4:00 p.m. Extra Credit Talk, @ Elvehjem Building, Room L150 “The Efficacy of the Slight: Zhuangzi and Lucretius in Times of Ecological Crisis” by Jane Bennett, Johns Hopkins.

F Oct 6 **Debate Assignment write-up due by noon on Canvas, “Assignments.”** Read before class: CAH, 92-130. Lecture: Han dynasty.

#### Week 6

M Oct 9 Read before class: CAH, 135-162. Lecture: The period of disunion and the coming of Buddhism. Hand out Museum Field Trip Assignment.

W Oct 11 Read before class: CAH, 162-178. Lecture: China’s second unification.

R Oct 12 Discussion section: Discuss CAH, 92-162.

F Oct 13 Museum field trip. Follow the directions on the Museum Field Trip Assignment.

#### Week 7

M Oct 16 Read before class: CAH, 178-200. Lecture: Tang China.

W Oct 18 Read before class: CAH, 201-234. Lecture: Song China.

R Oct 19 Discussion section: **Museum field trip report due in Section.** Pick best drawings.  
Discuss CAH 178-234 and review for next week's examination.  
F Oct 20 Read before class: CAH, 239-255. Lecture: The Mongols and Yuan Dynasty.

### Week 8

M Oct 23 Read before class: CAH, 256-273. Visitor to class: Professor Sarah Mellors Rodriguez will discuss her research on the history of birth control and abortion in China.

**Tuesday Oct 24, 4:00 p.m. Extra Credit Talk: Location TBD. "The Politics of Abortion in Modern China," by Sarah Mellors Rodriguez, Missouri State University.**

W Oct 25 **First Exam.**

R Oct 26 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 27 Read before class: CAH, 281-306. Lecture: Ming China.

### Week 9

M Oct 30 Lecture: Ming China, continued.

W Nov 1 Read before class: CAH, 310-335. Discuss briefly in class. Hand out final paper assignment. Discuss the nature of history papers, how to get started, how our library works, etc.

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

Discuss: CAH, 281-335.

F Nov 3 Lecture: Early Contact with Europe.

### Week 10

M Nov 6 Read before class: CAH, 340-375. Lecture: Qing Overview.

W Nov 8 Read before class: CAH, 379-386. Lecture: Opium War.

**W Nov 8, 5:30 p.m. Extra Credit Talk, 5:30 p.m., @ Elvehjem Building, Room L140 Chinese architecture, by Wei-Cheng Lin, University of Chicago.**

R Nov 9 Discussion section: Discuss readings

F Nov 10 Library day. Go to Memorial Library to look for sources for your papers. Ms. Ma 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, Nov. 11 at 11:59 p.m.

### Week 11

M Nov 13 Read before class: CAH, 386-394. Lecture: Qing Rebellions.

W Nov 15 Read before class: CAH, 394-399. Lecture: Self-strengthening.

W Nov 15, 7:30 p.m., Extra Credit Talk, 7 p.m., Thu Nov 15 @ Madison Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin Street, Shibani Mahtani and Timothy McLaughlin, book talk, *Among the Braves: Hope, struggle, and exile in the battle for Hong Kong and the future of global democracy*.

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

F Nov 17 Read before class: CAH, 399-412. Lecture: Intensification of Imperialism.

### Week 12

M Nov 20 Read before class: CAH, 419-425. Lecture: Qing Collapse.

W Nov 22. Video: *China in Revolution*. If you have left early for Thanksgiving, you can watch this video (Part 1) on YouTube.

R Nov 23 **NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK, THANKSGIVING BREAK**

F Nov 24 **NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING**

### Week 13

M Nov 27 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 29 Read before class: CAH, 425-440. Lecture: Early Republic and May Fourth Movement.

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

F Dec 1 Read before class: CAH, 440-52. Lecture: Marxism and the Rise of the CCP.

### Week 14

M Dec 4 Read before class: CAH, 457-495. Lecture: Republican China, WWII, and Civil War.

W Dec 6 Read before class: CAH, 501-525. Lecture: China in the 1950s and 1960s.

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

F Dec 8 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 11 Read before class: CAH, 542-578. Lecture: Opening and Reform.

W Dec 13 **Second Examination (not cumulative). Final paper due at 11:59 p.m.** 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 300-word summary of the reading being quizzed by 4:00 p.m on the day of the quiz. If you know 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, 1800-1900 words (including title, notes, bibliography)	15%

(Students taking the class for Honors credit do a paper of 3500 or more words).

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. Ms. Ma 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 Ms. Ma 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-third of the classes, you will fail the

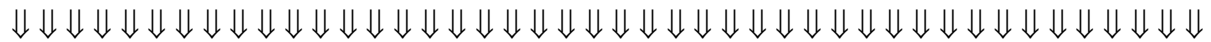
course. You may not miss on an exam day, or on a day in which you are scheduled to lead discussion or make a presentation, unless you get prior approval.

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, having ChatGPT write your paper, 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:

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 Professor Dennis in advance so we can agree on requirements.



“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 1800-1900 words, you are not to write beyond 1900. A lean 1800 beats a flabby 3000. Learn proper editing or you will be sentenced to life exile in a malarial region. If you write 3000 words, Ms. Ma and I will simply cross off the last 1200, 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!**



Plagiarism:

Question: What’s the policy?

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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.

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

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?

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/>**

Using Artificial Intelligence Programs in the Class:

Artificial intelligence programs are rapidly becoming important tools that everyone should learn to use. AI can certainly be helpful in the writing process. But you also need to learn how to analyze problems and write sophisticated essays on your own, just as you should be able to navigate on a road trip without using GPS, Google Maps, or other satellite-based systems. Learning how to think about a problem, create an argument, marshal facts in support of your argument, and write persuasively, are critical life skills that you will not develop if you are over-reliant on AI. So in this class, you may only use AI for two things: Generating ideas when you are stuck, and correcting your writing, including grammar, spelling, and style. For example, this summer I was asked to give a lecture, “Overview of Humanities Research Methods” at Beijing University. This is a very broad topic, so I asked ChatGPT what I should include, and it gave me eight suggestions. Most were things I had already thought of, but two were not. So I thought about them and decided one was a good idea, and one was not. ChatGPT is also very useful for helping non-native speakers catch language mistakes. So you can use it for these two things. But AI cannot write your whole paper, and in fact, AI history papers are usually pretty bad because AI is not yet good at dealing with detailed sources that require citation and seamless blending into complex arguments. Because of this, in grading, Professor Dennis and Ms. Ma will be putting much more weight on things that AI is not good at. In addition, **on every writing assignment, you must state whether you used AI and describe how you used it. Do this below your name and date. For example:**

“Fred Flintstone  
October 21, 2023

AI usage: I used ChatGPT to check for grammar, spelling, and stylistic errors after I drafted my essay.”



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 Professor Dennis or Ms. Ma 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 Professor Dennis or Ms. Ma. 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.