

History 357: The History of Pre-modern China

TR 8:00-9:15am

Dr. Keith Knapp

Office hours: M 1-3:30 pm, TR 1:00-3:30, or by appointment. Office # 430A. Telephone: 3-5073, e-mail: keith.knapp@citadel.edu.

Course Description: This course will explore the social, cultural, political, and economic history of China from its prehistory to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Through both lectures and discussions of primary sources, we will examine the institutions, major events, and values of each period. By looking at pre-modern Chinese art and artifacts, we will also attempt to mentally recreate each period's material culture.

Course Goals: After taking this course, each student should have a rudimentary knowledge of the political, economic and social patterns that characterized each period and the historical forces that created them. Each student should also have a vivid mental picture of life in premodern China. An additional goal is to have students aware of the tremendous influence that pastoral nomads had on Chinese politics and culture.

Course requirements: Students must attend class. Whether or not their absences are excused, those students who miss more than 20% of the class periods will fail the course. Those who are rowdy, read non-course materials, argue about their grades, chew tobacco, or talk during lectures will be asked to leave and marked as absent. Students must read all the assigned texts. Assigned reading should be done prior to the first class of the week. Each student must participate in class discussion, write both a short and long paper, take six quizzes, participate in two hour-long examinations and a final. The short paper will be an analysis of either *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* or *The First Emperor*. It should be four or five pages long. The long paper will consist of a research paper on a topic selected by the student. It will be at least ten pages long and incorporate both primary and secondary sources. I will distribute instruction sheets on how to write these papers. The hour and final examinations will consist of short identifications and essay questions. The composition of your grade is as follows: quizzes 20%, participation 10%, first examination 10%, short paper 10%, second examination 10%, long paper 20%, and the final examination 20%. Participation consists of asking questions, volunteering opinions, and showing that you have read the class assignments. Papers handed in after the deadline will be reduced half a grade for each class period that it is late. I will not accept papers that are more than two weeks late. Students who cheat on tests or engage in plagiarism will be reported for honor code violations and will receive a "F" grade for that test or paper. Scheduled tests are mandatory formations. Makeup tests Will NOT be given without a written note from a doctor or other appropriate official. Guard duty or other military activities do not excuse you from scheduled tests. The final examination will take place on its scheduled date.

Textbooks:

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *China: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*.

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*.

Brashier, K.E., *The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records*

Suzanne Cahill, *Divine Traces of the Daoist Sisterhood: Records of the Assembled Transcendents of the Fortified Walled City*

Komroff, Manuel, ed. *The Travels of Marco Polo*.

Lynn A. Struve, ed. *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm: China in Tiger's Jaws*.

Class Schedule

Week One: The Land of Mountains and Rivers (8/27)

Week Two: The World of Oracle Bones, Bronzes, and Chariots -- The Three Dynasties (9/1 & 9/3)

Readings: *China*, chapter 1.

9/1 Geography Quiz

Week Three: The Breakdown of the Ancestral Order and the Emergence of Competing States -- The Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (9/8 & 9/10)

Readings: *China*, chapter 2, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, Kongzi, Mozi

Week Four: Philosophy as the Road to Employment and Salvation-- The Hundred Schools of Thought (9/15 & 9/17)

Readings: *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, Mengzi, Laozi, and Han Feizi.

9/15 Quiz on *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*

9/17 Film: "The First Emperor"

Week Five: The Unification and Standardization of China -- The Qin and Han Dynasties (9/22 & 9/24)

Readings: *China*, chapter 3, *The First Emperor*

***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* papers due COB 9/24**

9/24 Quiz on *The First Emperor*

Week Six: Barbarians in the Heartland and Chinese on the Southern Frontier -- The Period of Disunity (9/29 & 10/1)

Readings: *China*, chapter 4.

10/1 First Examination

Week Seven: The Sino-Barbarian Synthesis— Unification under the Sui & Tang (10/6 & 10/8)

Readings: *China*, chapter 5

Paper on *The First Emperor* due COB 10/6

Week Eight: Decentralization and Commercialization -- The Decline of the Tang and the old empire (10/13 & 10/15)

Readings: *Divine Traces of the Daoist Sisterhood*

10/15 Quiz on the *Divine Traces of the Daoist Sisterhood*

Week Nine: The Conquest Dynasties -- The Liao, Jin, and Xixia (10/20 & 10/22)

Readings: *China*, chapter 6

Week Ten: Weakness Abroad and Prosperity at Home -- The Northern and Southern Sung Dynasties (10/27 & 10/29)

Readings: *The Travels of Marco Polo*

Week Eleven: The World Unifiers -- The Mongols and the Yuan Dynasty (11/3 & 11/5)

Readings: *China*, chapter 7

11/5 Quiz on *The Travels of Marco Polo*

Week Twelve: Autocracy and Expansion: The Early Ming (11/10 & 11/12)

Readings: *China*, chapter 8

11/10 Second Examination

Week Thirteen: Commercialization and Opulence: The Late Ming (11/17 & 11/19)

Readings: *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm*

Week Fourteen: The Great Enterprise: The Manchu Conquest of China (12/1 & 12/3)

Readings: *China*, chapter 9

12/1 Research paper due COB

12/3 Quiz on *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm*

Week Fifteen: Summation (12/8)

12/12 9am Final Examination