

## **HIST 582: The History of Premodern China**

W 7:00-9:45pm, Capers 401

Office hours: MTWR 1:10-3:45pm., or by appointment. Office # 430A, telephone number: 953-5073; e-mail: [Keith.Knapp@citadel.edu](mailto:Keith.Knapp@citadel.edu). Email is always the best way to reach me.

*Course Description:* This course will explore the social, cultural, political, and economic history of China from its prehistory to the seventeenth century. Through lectures, discussions of primary sources, and student presentations, we will examine the institutions, major events, and values of each period. By looking at and discussing images of art and artifacts, we will also attempt to mentally recreate the material culture of each period.

*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 sharp mental picture of life in pre-modern China.

*Course requirements:* Students must attend each session and read all of the assigned texts. Although the readings look onerous, I will give you hints on how to make them less so. If for some reason, a student cannot attend, he or she should attempt to contact the instructor. Each student must participate in class discussion, write two four-page analytical essays on two separate assigned texts, perform a fifteen-minute presentation on another separate assigned text, and write a fifteen-page term paper. Detailed instructions will be handed out on how to write the short paper and how to prepare the presentation. Your research paper must be based on a primary text approved by the instructor. This paper will mainly be based on your reading of the text, but you will also have to consult a number of secondary works that will be cited in footnotes and listed in the paper's bibliography. Written assignments are designed to test your knowledge as individuals; hence, they are not collaborative projects. Students who cheat on tests or engage in plagiarism will receive a "F" grade for that test or paper. The composition of your grade is as follows: participation 10%, first short paper 20%, second short paper 20%, presentation 20%, and the term paper 30%.

### *Textbooks to buy:*

Victor Mair, Nancy Steinhardt & Paul R. Goldin. *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005.

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2001.

Ssu-ma Ch'ien, *Records of the Historian*, trans. Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 1969.

Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang, *The Dragon King's Daughter: 10 Tang Dynasty Stories*. Silk Pagoda, ISBN 1-59654-381-7

Daniel K. Gardner, *Chu His Learning to Be a Sage*. University of California Press, ISBN 978-0-06525-3

Manuel Komroff, ed. *The Travels of Marco Polo*. New York: Liveright, 2003.

Steve West and Wilt Idema, translators. *Monks, Bandits, Lovers, and Immortals: Eleven Early Chinese Plays*. 978-1-60384-200-6

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Life Adrift*, translated by Graham Saunders. Hackett Publishing, ISBN 978-1-60384-198-6

### **Week 1 (1/11): Geography, Language, and Prehistory**

#### **Week 2 (1/18): The World of Oracle Bones, Bronzes, and Chariots -- The Shang and Western Zhou Dynasties**

Reading: *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*: "Shang Dynasty Oracle Bone Inscriptions," 8-12, "Shang and Zhou Ritual Bronze Inscriptions," 13-17, "Milfoil Divination," 28-31, "Heaven's Mandate," 32-34, and "The Odes," 35-44.

#### **Week 3 (1/25): The Breakdown of the Ancestral Order and the Emergence of Competing States -- The Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods**

Reading: *\*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, "Kongzi," "Mengzi," and "Xunzi"; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, "The World of the *Zuozhuan*," 72-77, "The *Methods of War* of Sun Wu and Sun Bin," 113-120.

#### **Week 4 (2/1): Philosophy as the Road to Employment and Salvation-- The Hundred Schools of Thought**

Reading: *\*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, "Mozi," "Laozi," "Zhuangzi," and "Han Feizi," *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, "The *Lyrics of Chu* and the Aesthetic of Shamanism," 99-105; "Anecdotes from the Warring States," 143-146; and "Spellbinding" (handout).

#### **Week 5 (2/8): The Unification and Standardization of China -- The Qin and Western Han Dynasties**

Reading: *\*Records of the Historian*, 1-200; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, "Filial Piety," 106-112, "Vestments of Mourning," 134-136, "The Laws of Qin before the Empire," 147-150, "Huang-Lao," 161-163, "The Five Phases," 164-168, "Account of the Legendary Physician Bian Que," 174-178, "Letter to Ren An," 179-182.

**Week 6 (2/15): The Rise of Confucianism and Powerful Families – The late Western Han and Eastern Han Dynasties**

Reading: \**Records of the Historian*, 201-356; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “The Rationalism of Wang Chong,” 183-185, “Lessons for Women,” 186-189, “Western Metropolis Rhapsody,” 190-224, “*Scripture on Great Peace*,” 225-230.

**Week 7 (2/22): Barbarians in the Heartland and Chinese on the Southern Frontier -- The Period of Disunity**

Reading: \*”Accounts of Filial Children (handout);” *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Preface to and Biographies from *Accounts of High-minded Men*,” 242-250, “The Seven Worthies of the Bamboo Grove,” 251-255, “On the Money God,” 256-259, “Buddhism and Indigenous Chinese Culture,” 270-277, “Early Medieval Filial Piety Stories,” 278-281.

**Week 8 (2/29): The Sino-Barbarian Synthesis—The Sui, & Early Tang**

Reading: *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Legends of *The Original Vow of the Bodhisattva of the Earth Sanctuary*,” 288-294, “Selections from the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*,” “The Battle of Mang Mountain,” 300-303, \*”The Tale of Master Yuan of Mount Lu,” 304-339, “Tang Poems as Vehicles for Ideas,” 340-348, “Emperor Taizong on Effective Government (handout).”

**Week 9 (3/7): Decentralization and Commercialization -- The Decline of the Tang and the old empire**

Reading: \**The Dragon King’s Daughter*; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “A Mid-Tang Businessman,” 349-354, “A Memorial on the Relic of Buddha,” 355-358, “The Original Way,” 359-362, “Late-Tang Foreign Relations: The Uyghur Crisis,” 368-376, “Political and Economic Problems concerning Buddhism,” 377-379.

**Week 10 (3/14): Weakness Abroad and Prosperity at Home -- The Northern Song and the Conquest Dynasties (The Liao, Jin, and the Western Xia)**

Reading: *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Advice on Landscape,” 380-387, “Parable of the Sun,” 388-389, “Inscription for the Temple of Auspicious Response,” 392-398, “Recollections of the Northern Song Capital,” 405-422, “Wang Anshi, Sima Guang, and Emperor Shenzong” (handout).

**Week 11 (3/21): Waiting for Doom and Enlightenment – The Southern Song Dynasty and the Advent of Neo-Confucianism**

Reading: \**Chu His Learning to Be a Sage*, *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Inscription for the Temple of Auspicious Response,” 392-398, “Dragons, Tigers, and Elixirs: Alchemy in Medieval China,” 429-432; “Zhang Jiucheng’s Explanation of Zhang Zai’s ‘Western Inscription,’” 423-425; “Introduction to the *Redacted Centrality and Commonality*, 426-428, “The Autobiographical Sermon of Zuqin,” 433-436.

**Week 12 (4/4): The World Unifiers – The Mongols and the Yuan Dynasty..**

Reading: \**The Travels of Marco Polo*, books 1 & 2; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Vernacular Paraphrases of the Classics for the Mongol Rulers,” 437-439, “Yuan-period

Medical Cases,” 440-443, “*Cloud Forest Hall Collection of Rules for Drinking and Eating*,” 444-455.

**Week 13 (4/11): Autocracy, Expansion, and the Sprouts of Capitalism: The Ming Dynasty**

Reading: \**Monks, Bandits, Lovers, and Immortals*; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Inquiry on the *Great Learning*,” 458-460, “In Praise of Martyrs,” 461-466, “Schools and Civil Service in the Ming Dynasty,” 494-504, “Accounts of Bengal in *Extensive Records on Four Foreign Lands*,” 505-513, “*Exposition of the Original Shaolin Staff Method*,” 514-516, “A Handful of Snow,” 517-524, “A Requiem for My Daughter Zhen,” 525-527, “Proclamations of the Hongwu Emperor,” (handout), “A Censor Accuses a Eunuch” (handout).

**Week 14 (4/18): The Great Enterprise: The Manchu Conquest of China**

Reading: \**Six Records of a Life Adrift*; *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, “Fang Yizhi, “Introduction to *Notes on the Principle of Things*,” 543-545, “Yu Yonghe, *Small Sea Travelogue*,” 548-562, “Miao Albums,” 563-566, “Yuan Mei, Champion of Individual Taste,” 567-573, “To Hell and Back,” 603-606, “Biographies of Exemplary Women,” 607-613.

**Week 15 (4/25): No class, research papers due**