In China today we see a country in the midst of the most extraordinary economic transformation the world has seen since the European Industrial Revolution. This development comes on top of far-reaching political, social, and cultural revolutions that dramatically changed people’s lives in the course of the 20th century. Yet all these transformations have occurred and continue to occur against a deep historical background still much in evidence. With study, we can see the ways in which the world’s largest and oldest bureaucratic state has coped with long-standing problems of economic and political management and how responses to these problems, even as they appear “modern,” bear the indelible imprint of China’s own historical experience. This course seeks to define the broad processes by which China, developing along lines very different from those of other cradles of human ingenuity and creativity, has survived over three millennia to emerge in the early 21st century as a major power. We will pay special attention to intellectual and religious trends, to material and political culture, to the tension between local society and the center, and to economic change in past and present.

Instructors

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The course consists of two integral parts, lectures and sections. The lectures trace the formation and transformation of institutional and cultural patterns in China from ancient times into the present. Participation in online sections is expected of all students. Sections are designed to help you develop informed approaches to this civilization and its history. Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Section participation (inc. web-based material) 20%
- Midterm 15%
- Short papers (2 @ 15% each) 30% (due week 9 and in Reading Period)
- Final examination 35%

Readings

The following books are required and have been ordered at the Coop. Please note that they can be found at the Coop only in the “Core” section and under the heading “History A-13.” This is because the course also runs as part of the Harvard College core curriculum. A limited number of copies have also been placed on reserve at the Grossman Library.

  **Note:** The 1st edition of this text, first published in 1960, is a substantially different book. If you choose to buy your books from a supplier other than the Coop, be sure you are buying the 2nd edition.

The main text for the course is Ebrey and Liu, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. This text is meant to accompany the lectures and to provide essential chronological and other information; it is not by any means a substitute for the lectures. Most of the other readings for the course are contained in de Bary, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, which consists of two volumes. Additional required readings are provided in the course reader and online.
Website
The course website includes section assignments, lecture videos, tutorials, pronunciation guides, a timeline, maps, slide carousels, discussion forums, and other materials. Go to:
http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~hsa13/
username hsa13
password china

Schedule
Note: Asterisked * readings are found in volume 1 of de Bary, Sources of Chinese Tradition (2nd ed.).

Week 1: Thinking about “China” and Chinese History
Sep 17 Introduction: Traditions and Transformations
19 Lect 1 Origin Stories
21 Lect 2 Bronzes, Oracle Bones, and the Legitimation of Power in Antiquity

Lecture reading: Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 1
Section reading: David Keightley, "Early Civilization in China: Reflections on How It Became Chinese" (in reader)
Website: “Neolithic Cultures and Bronzes”

Week 2: Competing Claims to the Way
Sep 24 Lect 3 Confucius and Confucianism
26 Lect 4 Competing Schools and Warring States
28 Lect 5 Forging a Unified Empire: The Qin Dynasty

Lecture reading: Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 2
*Mozi: Sections 9 and 16
*Laozi – Daodejing: 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 18-19, 22, 28, 48, 57, 86
*Zhuangzi: Chapters 2, 3
*Mencius: 1A:1, 1A:7, 2A:6, 3A:4, 3B:9, 6A:8, 6A:2, 6A:6
*Xunzi: Chapters 1, 19, 23
*Han Feizi: Chapters 49, 50
Website: “Ritual Sites”

Week 3: Imperial Government in the Qin and Han
Oct 01 Lect 6 Making Empire Last: Western Han
03 Lect 7 State and Society in Western and Eastern Han
05 Lect 8 Self-Realization in the Medieval World

Lecture reading: Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 3
Section reading: *Jia Yi, “The Faults of Qin” (228), “The Primacy of the People” (290)
*Lu Jia, “The Natural Order and the Human Order” (285)
Section reading: “Selections from Huan Kuan, Discourses on Salt and Iron” (in reader)
Website: “The Terracotta Army of the First Qin Emperor”

Week 4: Buddhism and Daoism During the Period of Division
Oct 08 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY
10 Lect 9 Buddhism
12 Lect 10 The Literary Enterprise (Owen)

Lecture reading: Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 4
Week 5: The Aristocratic Culture of the Tang Dynasty
Oct 15 Lect 11 The Universal Empire: Cosmopolitan Tang
19 MIDTERM

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 5
Bol, “The Tang-Song Transition as Context for Intellectual Change” (online)
“House Instructions of Mr. Yan” (541), “The Great Tang Code” (546)

Section reading: Yuan Zhen, “Yingying’s Story” (in reader)

Website: “Tang Women”

Week 6: The Literati and Neo-Confucianism
Oct 22 Lect 13 Transforming Society Through Government
24 Lect 14 The Neo-Confucian Movement
26 Lect 15 The Civil Service Examination System and Society

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 6
*Han Yu, “Essentials of the Moral Way” (569), “Memorial on the Bone of the Buddha” (583)
*Liu Zongyuan, “Essay on Enfeoffment” (559)
*Su Shi, “Memorial to Emperor Shenzong” (621)
*Sima Guang, “A Petition to Do Away with the Most Harmful of the New Laws” (625)

Section reading: *Zhu Xi’s Neo-Confucian Program (720-54); Wang Yangming’s New Learning of the Mind and Heart (842-55)

Website: “Leisure-suit Literati”

Week 7: Commerce and Money: The Material World Later Imperial China
Oct 29 Lect 16 The World Empire of the Mongols
Nov 31 Lect 17 Social Policy and Social Practice in Ming and Qing
02 Lect 18 Silver and Social Change in Late Ming

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 7
“Ming Foundations of Late Imperial China” (779-93)


Website: “Two Scrolls: Song Kaifeng and Qing Suzhou”

Week 8: Encountering the West
Nov 05 Lect 19 The Qing Conquest
07 Lect 20 China in the 18th century
09 Lect 21 Opium and the Opium Wars

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 8
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*: “The Yangzhou Massacre” (271)

Section reading: Wu Jingzi, *The Scholars*, chapters 1-7 (in reader)

Website: “The Qing Conquest of Eastern Turkestan”

Week 9: Calls for Change
Nov 12 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
14 Lect 22 Rebellions in 19th century China
16 Lect 23 Reform and Western Influence

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 9
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization* (311-22)
Website: “Chinoiserie, or, My Aunt Ethel’s Ming Vase”

**Week 10: Renewing the Nation**
Nov 19 Lect 24 The Boxer Uprising and the end of the Qing dynasty
21 Lect 25 The New Republic and the May 4th Movement
23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 10
Section reading: Chang, *Bound Feet and Western Dress*
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*: “Liang Qichao on his trip to America” (335-40)
Website: “Urban Life in Transition”

**Week 11: Fighting for a Modern State**
Nov 26 Lect 26 The Nationalist Party
28 Lect 27 World War II
30 Lect 28 Mao Zedong and the Communist Movement

Lecture reading: *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 11
Website: “Mapping China”

**Week 12: Continuing the Revolution**
Dec 03 Lect 29 New China
05 Lect 30 The Great Leap Forward
07 Lect 31 The Cultural Revolution

Section reading: *Morning Sun* (This is a film and will be shown…)
Website: “Propaganda Art in the PRC”

**Week 13: The Struggle for the Future**
Dec 10 Lect 32 Taiwan’s 20th Century
12 Lect 33 Democracy movements in the 1980s
14 Lect 34 China since 1989

Lecture reading: [review *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 11]
Liu Xin and Zhou Jihou, “Buying Mao: Then and Now” and “Interviews with the ‘Badge Masters’ Wang Anting and Dang Miao” (in reader)
Website: “China on the Web”

**Week 14**
Dec 17 Conclusion: China’s Future in the Light of Its Past

Section reading: Review