

Introduction to the Chinese Traditional Civilization

Course Code:	<i>PTSS170001</i>
Course Title:	<i>Introduction to the Chinese Traditional Civilization</i>
Credit:	<i>2</i>
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Course description:

This course is designed to portray some of the diverse achievements and distinctive characteristics of traditional Chinese civilization. It covers the history of China from the earliest time to the 19th century. It examines the main political, social, economic, religious and cultural developments from the formative period in Chinese history, through the unification of China in 221 BC and the subsequent imperial dynasties. The course is a combination of chronological depiction and theme-focused discussion. It covers a great variety of topics ranging from the origins and evolution of a distinctive Chinese political system, the evolution of Confucianism and its role in Chinese history, the arrival and growth of Buddhism, the relation between China and the outside world, to the economic growth in late imperial period and developments in art and literature.

Student learning outcomes (SLO):

After completing the course, students are expected

1. To be able to identify major historical periods, ideas, people and events in Ancient Chinese history.
2. To be able to construct interpretations of China's past, identifying origins and causal factors, explaining issues in relation to particular historical contexts.
3. To be able to craft and defend coherent and persuasive arguments both in written and oral forms.

Textbooks:

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
John King Fairbank & Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, Harvard University Press, 2006.

Attendance and participation:

You are expected to attend each class, and be prepared for the class, namely having studied assigned material, so that you can participate in the class discussion. If you are unable to attend a class, you are expected to email the professor *ahead of time*. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a zero being entered for that grade. Excused absence from an exam will result in either a make-up or the final grade being determined by other evaluation inputs. An excused absence from an exam must be requested and arranged with the professor being the exam. Arriving late will affect your class participation grade.

Exams:

There will be a midterm (take-home) and a final exam (in-class), which will test your knowledge of Chinese history and the ability to analyze related issues.

You are required to take all the exams at the scheduled time. Exceptions are only granted if a student has two exams scheduled at the same time or three examinations scheduled on the same day. This applies even if you or your parents have made airline reservations at an earlier time.

Grading:

Attendance and effective participation	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	50%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
A-	85-89%
B+	80-84%
B	75-79%
B-	70-74%
C+	65-69%
C	62-64%
C-	60-61%
D	55-59%
F	less than 55

Expectations regarding grades

The assumption in this class is that an A must be *earned* and such grades are reserved only for the students that truly excel based on class expectations. To earn an A, students must demonstrate mastery of the material, exceptional analytical skills and the ability to integrate interdisciplinary ideas and knowledge.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic and Readings
Session 1	Course Introduction
Session 2	The Origins of Chinese Civilization: Neolithic Period to the Western Zhou Dynasty. Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 1, p. 10-35; Fairbank, Chpt.1, p. 29-45
Session 3	Essential Political Ideas and the Philosophical Foundation: the Eastern Zhou Period Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 2; Fairbank, Chpt.2, p. 46-54

Date	Topic and Readings
Session 4	The Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire: The Qin and Han Dynasties Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 3; Fairbank, Chpt. 2, p. 54-71
Session 5	The Age of Division and the Intellectual Change Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 4; Fairbank, Chpt. 3, p. 72-75
Session 6	The Reunification of Sui and the Cosmopolitan Empire of Tang Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 5; Fairbank, Chpt. 3, p. 76-87
Session 7	Proto-modern? Economical and Technological Revolution in Song Dynasty Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 6; Fairbank, Chpt. 4
Session 8	Alien Rule: China under the Mongols Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 7; Fairbank, Chpt. 5
Session 9	Ming Dynasty: Reestablishing a Chinese Empire Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 8; Fairbank, Chpt. 6
Session 10	Alien Rule: China under the Manchus Readings: Ebrey, Chpt. 9; Fairbank, Chpt. 7
Session 11	The Coming of the West and the End of the Empire: From McCartney's Delegation to Opium War Readings: Fairbank, Chpt. 9, p. 195-205
Session 12	Final Exam

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