History 387—Early China

CRN 24270
Winter 2005
LIL 245
UH 10:11.20

Ina Asim
Office Hours: UH 12:00-13:00
Office: MCK 317

For your information:

An excellent webpage concerning Study Skills can be found under

http://www.iss.stthomas.edu/studyguides

There are many study skill guides on the internet; the advantage of this one is that most of its features are multilingual. Languages used for the webpage include English, French, German, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Arabic and many other languages.

Course description:

This course gives a survey from the beginnings of Chinese history to the end of the Tang Dynasty in the 10th century. Based on written and archaeological sources it will introduce the development of important Chinese philosophical and religious concepts, as well as the formation of the state and its imperial bureaucracy. During this period the government was managed by an aristocratic elite and a limited number of scholar-officials selected by imperial exams. These officials not only pursued their tasks in government and administration but also set the pattern for the blueprint that is constituted of those ethical values and aesthetic expressions mirrored in the arts and in material culture that we have come to identify as constituents of Chinese culture.

A series of three upper-division courses that focus on late imperial and modern Chinese history (10th to 20th centuries) continues this survey.

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions. 20%
2. A short oral presentation on a topic discussed in the course. The presentation should not exceed 5 minutes. Topic options will be discussed during the first meeting. 20%
3. Two short quizzes. 10% each.
4. Midterm and final examinations. 20% each.
Required Reading

The following text is available for purchase at Black Sun Bookstore (on Hilyard Street, next to Sundance Supermarket and Silver Screen Video):


Further readings will be distributed as photocopies or made available on electronic reserve.

Course Outline

Week 1

1/4 U 1. Introduction; chronological survey of political and military events

1/6 H 2. The first written records of Chinese history
(Hansen, 17-41)

---

Week 2

1/11 U 3. The Zhou conquest of the Shang
(Hansen, 43-53)

1/13 H 4. The 'Age of Philosophy' in a time of war
(Hansen, 54-67)

---

Week 3

1/18 U 5. Confucius and subsequent teachers
(Hansen, 67-95)

1/20 H 6. China’s First Emperor
(Hansen, 97-112)

---

Week 4

1/25 U 7. Film on Qin Shihuang

1/27 H 8. Power struggles and economic problems in the Han
(Hansen, 112-135)
Week 5
2/1 U 9. MIDTERM

2/3 H 10. The restoration of the Later Han (Hansen, 136-143)

Week 6
2/8 U 11. Philosophical Daoism and the evolution of a Daoist church (Hansen, 142-149)

2/10 H 12. The transmission of Buddhism (Hansen, 153-175)

Week 7
2/15 U 13. Patrons of Buddhism: The rulers of the Northern Wei Dynasty (Hansen, 175-189)

2/17 H 14. Unification under the Sui-Dynasty (Hansen, 191-202)

Week 8
2/22 U 15. The Golden Age of the Tang Dynasty (Hansen, 203-219)

2/24 H 16. Film on the Tang Dynasty

Week 9
3/1 U 17. The An Lushan-Rebellion and its consequences
(Hansen, 221-245)

Presenters 36-40

3/3 H 18. The significance of the silkroad and the finds of Dunhuang
(Hansen, 245-258)

---

**Week 10**

3/8 U 19. The Tang-Song transition
(Hansen, 261-275)

3/10 H 20. Review session

---

**Week 11**

3/16 W 8.00 am FINAL