

HIST 387 (001): Early (Ancient) China

Professor Michael Chang

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Office hrs: Tue 3-5 pm & by appt

Course time and location:

Tue/Thu 10:30-11:45 am

Art and Design Building L008

Course webpage: <http://earlychina.wordpress.com>

Course Description: This course will explore the historical formation of “Chinese civilization” from the earliest stages of human settlement (c. 5000-3000 BCE) through the rise and fall of the Han empire (c. 206 BCE-220 CE). Although primarily intended to help students gain a fuller understanding of the political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in early China, the focus of the course will be on the establishment of political authority, classical schools of thought, and the formation of China’s early empires. By emphasizing dynamic historical processes of change over time as seen in both material evidence and written records, this course will complicate the stereotypical notion of a monolithic and unchanging “ancient China.”

Required Texts: The titles below are all available for purchase at the GMU Barnes & Noble in Johnson Center.

1. K.C. Chang. *Art, Myth, and Ritual*. Harvard, 1983. [W-G]
2. P. J. Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden, eds. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Hackett, 2006.
3. Michael Loewe. *Everyday Life in Early Imperial China*. Hackett, 2005 [orig. pub. in 1968]. [W-G]
4. Nicola Di Cosmo. *Ancient China and Its Enemies*. Cambridge, 2004. [W-G]

In addition to the titles above, readings in the schedule marked by a **single asterisk (*)** and followed by (**e-reserve**) are available on E-Reserves at: <http://furbo.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/ers/OSCRgen.cgi> (passwd = earlychina).

Requirements & Grading: You must complete (that is, demonstrate serious engagement with) every requirement in order to receive a passing grade. The instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes "completion" of a requirement.

- 1. Participation (30%):** I expect you to attend every one of our scheduled meetings and to come fully prepared. Finish the assigned readings before class and pause to think about them. The quality of your written and oral contributions in class discussions will be considered as indicators of your engagement with the course.
- 2. In-class Chronology Quiz (5%):** to be taken at the beginning of class on **Thurs. 9/8/2011**. For more details see guidelines distributed in class.
- 3. Short Papers (40%):** In order to hone your critical reading & writing skills, you will be asked to complete **two (2) short (5 pg.) papers due in-class** on **Tues. 9/27/2011 & Tues. 11/8/2011**. Each short paper will count as 20% of your overall course grade. More detailed instructions and guidelines will be forthcoming. Policies and procedures for the submission of written work are listed below (see Course Policies, points d and e).
- 4. Take-Home Final Examination (25%):** essays; **due in my departmental mailbox (Robinson B, Room 359) by 12:00 p.m. on Friday 12/16/2011. No late work will be accepted for the final exam.**

Course Policies, Reminders, and Helpful Tips

a) Class absences: Students are expected to attend all meetings of the course. In the event that you must miss class, you are responsible for the contents of the lecture or discussion. **Students are expected to come to class on time.** Late arrivals are disruptive, and late-comers may miss important information or hand-outs.

b) Cell phones: During class all phones must be switched off and put away. Neither students nor instructors should compose, read, or respond to text messages during class. If you are an emergency responder (such as an EMT) and must receive calls or messages, please notify the instructor within the first week of class.

c) Laptop computers: Students who wish to use a laptop computer for note-taking are welcome to do so. However, students who use laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., email, instant messaging, internet browsing unrelated to the course) will be asked to leave and no longer be permitted to use a computer in class.

d) Submission of written work: All written work is due at the beginning of class in hard copy on the day indicated on the syllabus. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in a 12-point font. Your name should be on the paper, and all pages should be stapled and numbered. You must submit your work in hard copy only; no email attachments will be accepted (unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been made). You should, however, retain electronic copies of all written work, and your instructor may ask for an electronic copy of your paper in order to use it as an example in teaching or to submit to a plagiarism detection site like Turnitin.com.

e) Late policy: All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. Late work will be penalized **ONE FULL LETTER GRADE (10 pts.) per day (including weekends & holidays)**. The only exceptions will be when you have explicit, advance permission from your instructor. If you anticipate a problem in completing or submitting your work on time, you must contact the instructor in a timely manner. If you do not hear back from your instructor, you should assume that your work is due on the original date. Regardless of whether or not you have been granted an extension, you must contact your instructor for how to submit late work. Late assignments will not be considered as “received” until a hard copy is in the instructor’s hands. **No late work will be accepted for the take-home final exam.**

f) Plagiarism: Don’t do it. It’s easy to spot & can result in expulsion from the University and loss of degree. **What is plagiarism?** As noted by the American Historical Association (AHA), “Writers plagiarize... when they fail to use quotation marks around borrowed material and to cite the source, use an inadequate paraphrase that makes only superficial changes to a text, or neglect to cite the source of a paraphrase.” For details see: http://www.historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm#Defining

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, or about when or how to properly cite a source, talk to your instructor before you write! For more information see these very helpful websites:

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism>

<http://classweb.gmu.edu/rcherubi/ancient/plagiarism.htm>

g) Academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented condition that warrants academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>)

h) Electronic communication. It is best to contact me at mchang5[at]gmuedu. I usually check email during normal business hours, namely M-F, 8 am-5pm. Please allow 24-48 hours for a reply to an email request or inquiry (excluding weekends). Please sure to note your course number in your email subject line and include both your first and last name in your signature. For general advice on the best way to communicate via email, see: <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

i) Final disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to revision as the semester proceeds. Announcements of changes will be made online and during class meetings. Students are responsible for being aware of any changes.

j) Academic Integrity: All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu> All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review.

Dates	Lectures & Discussions	Assignments & Readings	Notices
8/30 & 9/1	T: Course introduction Th: NO CLASS—Amsterdam conference	T: buy your books; start studying for chronology quiz Th: Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , p. 17-23 (stop at bottom of p. 23); Chang, <i>Art, Myth, & Ritual</i> , Intro & Ch. 1-2 (p. 1-43).	Hand out chrono quiz guidelines.
9/6 & 9/8	T: Origin Stories: 2 Narratives of Chinese Civilization The Shang & Its Neighbors Th: Oracle Bones, Bronzes, & Kingship	T: Chang, <i>Art, Myth, & Ritual</i> , Ch. 3-4 (p. 44-80). Th: Chang, <i>Art, Myth, & Ritual</i> , Ch. 5 (p. 81-94). **IN-CLASS CHRONOLOGY QUIZ	M 9/5 Labor Day-no class Tu 9/6 Last day to add
9/13 & 9/15	T: read & discuss oracle bone & bronze inscriptions Th: The Shang's Neighbors in Jiangxi and Sichuan	T: Chang, <i>Art, Myth, & Ritual</i> , Ch. 6-7 (p. 95-129); *"Shang Dynasty Oracle-Bone Inscriptions" (E-Reserves); and *"Shang and Zhou Ritual Bronze Inscriptions" (E-Reserves). Th: read *D. Keightley, "Archaeology as Mentality," (E-Reserves)	Hand out Paper #1 guidelines.
9/20 & 9/22	T: discuss Chang & Keightley Th: NO CLASS—DC conf	T: Chang & Keightley summaries due in-class Th: work on Paper #1	
9/27 & 9/29	Western Zhou (1050-771 BCE) T: Zhou Conquest & Consolidation Th: Decline & Fall of the Western Zhou	T: * Paper #1 due in class ; download and bring to class *"Heaven's Mandate" (E-Reserves). Th: read *J. Rawson, "Statesmen or Barbarians?" (E-Reserves)	F 9/30 Last day to drop.
10/4 & 10/6	Eastern Zhou (770-256 BCE) T: Spring & Autumn Period Th: Warring States Period	T: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. VII-VIII and XI-XVII; read entries under "Zhou" on p. 385; look at "Important Terms" (p. 389-394) (see hand out). Th: *"The Methods of War of Sun Wu & Sun Bin" (E-Reserves)	Hand out "Important Terms" list.
10/11 & 10/13	T: Columbus Day-no class Th: Kongzi (Confucius) & Mengzi (Mencius)	T: Columbus Day-no class (Mon classes meet) <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 1-28, 31-40, & 44-47. Th: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 115-125, 129 (2A6)-136, 138 (4A17), 139 (4B2 to 4B12), 144-145 (6A1 & 6A2), 147-148 (6A6), 151 (6A15), and 152 (7A15).	Hand out Paper #2 guidelines.
10/18 & 10/20	T: discuss Kongzi & Mengzi Th: Laozi (The Daodejing)	T: Th: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 161-180	
10/25 & 10/27	T: discuss Laozi Th: Xunzi	T: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 181-203 Th: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 255-286 and 198-307.	F 10/28 Last day for selective withdraw
11/1 & 11/3	T: Han Feizi Th: discuss Xunzi & Han Feizi	T: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 311-335 Th: <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> , p. 335-359	
11/8 & 11/10	T: in-class debate Th: Rise and Fall of the Qin	T: * Paper #2 due in class Th: Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 1-3 (p. 17-53).	
11/15 & 11/17	The Han (206 BCE-220 CE) T: Western Han Dynasty Th: Eastern Han Dynasty	T: Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 4-8 (p. 54-107). Th: Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 9-11 (p. 108-151).	
11/22 & 11/24	T: discuss Loewe Th: Thanksgiving-no class	Loewe QQC due by 12 noon on Mon. 11/21/2011 T: Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 12-15 (p. 152-199). Th: Di Cosmo, <i>Ancient China & Its Enemies</i> , Introduction and Ch. 1 (p. 1-43).	11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving recess.
11/29 & 12/1	T: The Northern Frontier & the Xiongnu Problem Th: NO CLASS—NY conf	T: Di Cosmo, <i>Ancient China & Its Enemies</i> , Ch. 5-6 (p. 161-252). Th: Di Cosmo, <i>Ancient China & Its Enemies</i> , Ch. 7-8 and Conclusion (p. 255-317).	Hand out Final Exam guidelines.
12/6 & 12/8	T: discuss Di Cosmo Th: wrap-up; course evaluations	Di Cosmo QQC due by 12 noon on Mon. 12/5/2011 T: Th: start working on take-home final exam	
12/13-12/20 exams	Take-home Final Exam due in my dept. mailbox (Robinson B, Room 359) by 12:00 p.m. on Friday 12/16/2011. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.		