

## HIST 387 (001): Early/Ancient China

### **Professor Michael Chang**

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Office hrs: MW 3-4 pm & by appt

### **Course time and location:**

Mon/Wed 10:30-11:45 am

Robinson B, Room 208

**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 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 emergence of a distinct Chinese “civilization” through the establishment of political (state) 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 the Johnson Center.

1. K.C. Chang. *Art, Myth, and Ritual*. Harvard, 1983. [Wade-Giles]
2. Bryan Van Norden. *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* [hereafter *ICCP*]. Hackett, 2011.
3. P. J. Ivanhoe & Bryan Van Norden. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* [hereafter *RCCP*]. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Hackett, 2005.
4. Michael Loewe. *Everyday Life in Early Imperial China*. Hackett, 2005 [orig. pub. in 1968]. [Wade-Giles]
5. Nicola Di Cosmo. *Ancient China and Its Enemies*. Cambridge, 2002. [Wade-Giles]

In addition to the titles above, readings in the schedule marked by a **single asterisk (\*)** and followed by (.pdf) are available at the “Additional Material” page on our course website (password = earlychina).

**Requirements & Grading:** You must demonstrate serious engagement with every requirement in order to pass this course. The instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes “serious engagement.”

**1. Participation (30%):** I expect you to attend every one of our scheduled meetings and to be fully prepared. This means finishing the assigned readings listed for that day before coming to class. The quality of your written and oral contributions both in class and online will be considered as indicators of your engagement.

**2. In-class Chronology Quiz (5%):** at the beginning of class on **W 9/6/2017**. More detailed guidelines will be 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 (5-7 pg.) papers due in-class** on **M 9/25/2017 & M 11/6/2017**. 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 c and d).

**4. Take-Home Final Examination (25%):** essays; **due in my departmental mailbox (Robinson B, Room 359) by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday 12/15/2017**. **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 and laptop computers:** 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. 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 will no longer be permitted to use a computer in class. Violation of these policies will result in a significant reduction in your course participation grade.

**c) 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.

**d) 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.**

**e) 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 pgs. 3-4 of this document: [http://www.historians.org/Documents/Plagiarism/Curriculum\\_Plagiarism.pdf](http://www.historians.org/Documents/Plagiarism/Curriculum_Plagiarism.pdf)

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>

**f) 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 (ODS) at 703-993-2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>). Additional support may be obtained through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

**g) Electronic communication.** It is best to contact me at mchang5[at]gmu[dot]edu. I usually check email during normal business hours, namely M-F, 8 am-5 pm. Please allow 24-48 hours for a reply to an email request or inquiry (excluding weekends). Please sure to indicate 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://web.wellesley.edu/SocialComputing/Netiquette/netiquetteprofessor.html>

<http://mledy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

**h) Academic Integrity:** All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>)

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review.

**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.

Dates	Lectures & Discussions	Assignments & Readings	Notices
8/28 & 8/30	<b>M:</b> Course introduction <b>W:</b> China's Language and Geography	<b>M:</b> buy books; Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , p. 17-23 (first parag on p23) <b>W:</b> <i>Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> [hereafter <i>ICCP</i> ], p. 235-247 (Appendix B); and Chang, <i>Art, Myth, &amp; Ritual</i> , Intro & Ch. 1-2 (p. 1-43).	Hand out chrono quiz guidelines.
9/4 & 9/6	<b>M:</b> <b>LABOR DAY-no class</b> <b>The Shang &amp; Its Neighbors</b> <b>W:</b> Origins of Chinese Civiliz.	<b>M:</b> Chang, <i>Art, Myth, &amp; Ritual</i> , Ch. 3-4 (p. 44-80); study for chronology quiz. <b>W:</b> Chang, <i>Art, Myth, &amp; Ritual</i> , Ch. 5 (p. 81-94). <b>IN-CLASS CHRONOLOGY QUIZ</b>	M 9/4 Labor Day-no class Tue 9/5 Last day to add
9/11 & 9/13	<b>M:</b> The Shang Dynasty <b>W:</b> read & discuss oracle bone & bronze inscriptions	<b>M:</b> Chang, <i>Art, Myth, &amp; Ritual</i> , Ch. 6-7 (p. 95-129) <b>W:</b> <i>"Shang Dynasty Oracle-Bone Inscriptions"</i> (.pdf); and <i>"Shang and Zhou Ritual Bronze Inscriptions"</i> (.pdf).	Hand out Paper #1 guidelines.
9/18 & 9/20	<b>M:</b> Beyond the Shang: Neighbors in Jiangxi & Sichuan <b>W:</b> discuss Chang & Keightley	<b>M:</b> read <i>*D. Keightley, "Archaeology as Mentality,"</i> (.pdf) <b>W:</b> <b>Chang &amp; Keightley summaries due in-class</b>	
9/25 & 9/27	<b>Western Zhou</b> (1050-771 BCE) <b>M:</b> Zhou Conquest & Rule <b>W:</b> Decline of the Western Zhou; discuss Rawson article	<b>M:</b> <b>Paper #1 due in class</b> ; download & bring to class <i>"Heaven's Mandate"</i> (.pdf). <b>W:</b> read <i>*J. Rawson, "Statesmen or Barbarians?"</i> (.pdf); <i>ICCP</i> , p. 223-233 (App. A), p. XI-XII (Preface), and p. 1-15 (Ch. 1)	F 9/29 Last day to drop.
10/2 & 10/4	<b>Eastern Zhou</b> (770-256 BCE) <b>M:</b> Spring & Autumn Period <b>W:</b> Warring States Period	<b>M:</b> <i>"The Methods of War of Sun Wu &amp; Sun Bin"</i> (.pdf); <i>Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i> [hereafter <i>RCCP</i> ], p. VII-VIII and XI-XVII; read entries under "Zhou" (p. 385); look at "Important Terms" (p. 389-394) (see hand out). <b>W:</b> <i>ICCP</i> , p. 17-47 (Ch. 2-3) and p. 83-100 (Ch. 6)	Hand out "Important Terms" list.
10/9 & 10/11	<b>M:</b> <b>Columbus Day-no class</b> <b>(Mon classes meet on T 10/10)</b> <b>T 10/10:</b> Kongzi (Confucius) & Mengzi (Mencius) <b>W:</b> discuss Kongzi & Mengzi	<b>M:</b> review <i>ICCP</i> , p. 223-233 (App. A); and read <i>RCCP</i> , p. 1-28, 31-41, & 44-47. <b>Online exercise for Kongzi &amp; Mengzi due 5 pm Tue 10/10/2017</b> <b>W:</b> <i>RCCP</i> , p. 115-125, 129 (2A6)-136, 138-139 (4A17 to 4B12), 144-145 (6A1 & 6A2), 147-148 (6A6), 149-151 (6A8 to 6A15), and 152 (7A15).	Hand out Paper #2 guidelines.
10/16 & 10/18	<b>M:</b> Laozi (The Daodejing) <b>W:</b> discuss Laozi	<b>M:</b> <i>ICCP</i> , p. 121-139 (Ch. 8); and <i>RCCP</i> , p. 161-180 <b>Online exercise for The Daodejing due 5 pm Tue 10/17/2017</b> <b>W:</b> <i>RCCP</i> , p. 181-203	
10/23 & 10/25	<b>M:</b> Xunzi <b>W:</b> discuss Xunzi	<b>M:</b> <i>ICCP</i> , p. 161-183 (Ch. 10); and <i>RCCP</i> , p. 255-286 & 198-307. <b>Tue 10/24: Online ex (Xunzi) due 5 pm; China Town Hall 7 pm</b> <b>W:</b>	F 10/27 end of selective withdraw
10/30 & 11/1	<b>M:</b> Han Feizi <b>W:</b> discuss Han Feizi	<b>M:</b> <i>ICCP</i> , p. 185-199 (Ch. 11); and <i>RCCP</i> . 311-335 <b>Online exercise for Han Feizi due 5 pm Tue 10/31/2017</b> <b>W:</b> <i>RCCP</i> , p. 335-359	
11/6 & 11/8	<b>M:</b> in-class debate <b>W:</b> Rise and Fall of the Qin	<b>M:</b> <b>Paper #2 due in class</b> <b>W:</b> <i>ICCP</i> , p. 201-207 (Ch. 12, pts. I & II); and Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 1-3 (p. 17-53).	
11/13 & 11/15	<b>M:</b> The Han Dynasty <b>W:</b> read and discuss docs.	<b>M:</b> Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 4-8 (p. 54-107). <b>W:</b> Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 9-11 (p. 108-151); <i>"The Way of the King"</i> (.pdf); <i>"Debate on Salt &amp; Iron"</i> (.pdf); <i>"Wang Mang: Edict on Land Reform"</i> (.pdf)	
11/20 & 11/22	<b>M:</b> discuss Loewe <b>W:</b> The Northern Frontier & the Xiongnu Problem	<b>Online exercise for Loewe due 5 pm on Sun 11/19/2017</b> <b>M:</b> Loewe, <i>Everyday Life</i> , Ch. 12-15 (p. 152-199) <b>W:</b>	Hand out Final Exam guide
11/27 & 11/29	<b>M:</b> read and discuss docs. <b>W:</b> <b>Thanksgiving-no class</b>	<b>M:</b> <i>"The Xiongnu, Raiders from the Steppe"</i> (.pdf) <b>W:</b> di Cosmo, <i>Ancient China &amp; Its Enemies</i> , Intro & Ch. 1 (p. 1-43)	11/22-11/26 Thanksgiving recess.
12/4 & 12/6	<b>M:</b> discuss di Cosmo <b>W:</b> wrap-up; course evaluations	<b>Online exercise for di Cosmo due 5 pm on Sun 12/3/2017</b> <b>M:</b> di Cosmo, <i>Ancient China &amp; Its Enemies</i> , Ch. 5-6 (p. 161-252) and Conclusion (p. 313-317) <b>W:</b> start working on take-home final exam	
12/13-12/20 exams	<b>Take-home Final Exam due in my dept. mailbox (Robinson B, Room 359) by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday 12/15/2017. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.</b>		