

HIST 353 (001): Traditional (Late Imperial) China

Professor Michael Chang

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Office hrs: MW 4:30-5:30 pm & by appt

Course time and location:

MW 3:00-4:15 pm, Robinson B222

Course webpage: <http://hist353.wordpress.com>

Course Description: In this course we will explore the history of China from the disintegration of the Han empire at the turn of the third century (200 CE) to the establishment of the Qing empire in the late seventeenth century. The course is primarily intended to help students gain a fuller understanding of the political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in later imperial China (200-1700). This course will also challenge the stereotype of a monolithic and static "traditional China" by encouraging students to develop a more critical and complicated understanding of the diverse historical forces that helped to both integrate and divide that entity we call "China."

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

1. Patricia Ebrey. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, 2010 (1999) [**Abbreviated as CIHC**]
2. John W. Chaffee. *The Thorny Gates of Learning in Sung China: a Social History of Examinations*. SUNY, 1995.
3. Morris Rossabi. *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*. Univ. of California, 2009 (1988).
4. Timothy Brook. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. Univ. of California, 1998.

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

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%): You are expected to attend all 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 will be considered as indicators of your engagement with the course.

2. In-class Map Quiz (2.5%): A study guide will be provided. The quiz will be taken at the start of class on **Mon. 1/30/2012**. No make-ups will be allowed (unless prior arrangement has been made).

3. In-class Chronology Quiz (2.5%): A study guide will be provided. The quiz will be taken at the start of class on **Mon. 2/6/2012**. No make-ups will be allowed (unless prior arrangement has been made).

4. Short Papers (40%): Over the course of the term, you will be responsible for completing **two (2) short (5 pg.) papers due in-class** on **Mon. 3/5/2012** and **Mon. 4/2/2012**. Each paper will count as 20% of your overall course grade. More detailed instructions will be provided in class. Policies and procedures for submitting written work are listed below (see Course Policies, points d and e).

5. Take-Home Final Examination (25%): essays; **due in my departmental mailbox (Robinson B, Room 359) by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wed. 5/16/2012**. **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 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 ODS.** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>)

h) Electronic communication. It is best to contact me at mchang5[at]gm[u]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://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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Lectures & Discussions	Assignments & Readings	Notices
1/23 & 1/25	M: Course introduction W: China's language & geography	M: buy your books; study for map and chronology quizzes W: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 6-8 (forward & preface), 11-13 (geography), 60-70 and 73-85 (Qin & Han); study for upcoming map quiz.	Distribute map & chronology quiz guides.
1/30 & 2/1	M: Han Collapse & the Three Kingdoms W: Age of Division: Northern & Southern Dynasties	M: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 86-107 (Age of Division) **IN-CLASS MAP QUIZ W: *Dien, "The Six Dynasties" (e-rsrv); and *#24 "Cultural Diff Btwn North and South" (e-rsrv)	Tue 1/31 last day to add or drop w/out fees
2/6 & 2/8	M: Buddhism in China W: Sui-Tang transition	M: *"Introd of Buddhism" (e-rsrv) **IN-CLASS CHRONOLOGY QUIZ W: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 108-135 (Tang)	
2/13 & 2/15	M: Early Tang W: Tang-Song transition	M: *#25 "Tang Taizong on Effective Govt" (e-rsrv) W: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 136-161 (Song); Chaffee, p. xxi-xxx and 4-17 (Ch. 1)	Distribute Paper #1 guide
2/20 & 2/22	M: Early Song Gov. & Politics W: Civil Service Exams & Social Impact	M: Chaffee, p. 18-115 (Ch. 2-5); *#35 "Wang v. Sima" and *#42 "Mutual Responsibility System" (e-rsrv) W: *#36 "Rules for Fan Lineage Charitable Estate" (e-rsrv)	Fri 2/24 Last day to drop
2/27 & 2/29	M: discuss Chaffee W: Southern Song & Survival	M: Chaffee, p. 119-188 (Ch. 6-8); review Chaffee, p. 4-17 (Ch.1) W: *#39 (Longing to Recover the North" (e-rsrv)	
3/5 & 3/7	M: Song Culture & Religion W: Women in the Song	M: ** Paper #1 due in class W: *#38 "Women & Probs" (e-rsrv); and <i>CIHC</i> , p. 164-185 (Alien Rule)	Distribute Paper #2 guide
3/12 & 3/14	SPRING RECESS NO CLASS	SPRING RECESS-NO CLASS Read Rossabi, p xi-xxi (prefaces) and 1-114 (Ch. 1-4)	3/12-3/18 Spring Recess
3/19 & 3/21	M: Mongol Society & Chinggis (Genghis) Khan W: The Mongol World Empire	M: Rossabi, p. 115-205 (Ch. 5-7) W:	
3/26 & 3/28	M: Khubilai Khan & Conquest W: discuss Rossabi	M: *#44 "A Mongol Governor" (e-rsrv) W: Rossabi, p. 206-232 (Ch. 8)	Fri 3/30 Last day for elective withdraw
4/2 & 4/4	M: China Under Mongol Rule W: Yuan-Ming transition	M: ** Paper #2 due in class W: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 190-219 (Ming)	
4/9 & 4/11	M: discuss primary document W: Early Ming, 1368-1450	M: *#47 "Proclamations of the Hongwu Emperor" (e-rsrv); Brook, p. xv-xxii (Preface & Chrono); 1-13 (Intro); and 17-85 ("Winter") W: Brook, p. 86-124 ("Spring"-1 st half)	
4/16 & 4/18	M: Mid-Ming, 1450-1550 W: Late Ming, 1550-1644	M: Brook, p. 124-152 ("Spring"-2 nd half); and 153-237 ("Summer") W: *#54 "Family Instructions" (e-rsrv)	
4/23 & 4/25	M: discuss Brook W: Ming-Qing transition	M: Brook, p. 238-262 ("Fall") W: <i>CIHC</i> , p. 220-236 (early Qing)	Distribute final exam guide
4/30 & 5/2	M: The Qing Conquest & Consolidation W: course wrap-up	M: *#59 "Yangzhou Massacre" (e-rsrv) W: work on take-home final	
5/9-5/16 exams	Take-Home Final Exam due in my dept. mailbox by 12 p.m. (noon) on Wed. 5/16/2012. <u>No late essays will be accepted.</u>		