

**HIST 353 (001): Traditional (Later Imperial) China**

**Professor Michael Chang**  
 Horizon Hall 3151  
 Virtual office hrs on Zoom by appt

**Course time and location:**  
 10:30-11:45 am ET on Mondays and Wednesdays  
 Krug Hall 210

**Course Description:** This is a survey of Chinese history from the disintegration of the Han empire at the turn of the third century (200 CE) to the founding of the Qing empire in the late seventeenth century (1640s-1680s). The course introduces students to the most significant political, social, economic, and cultural developments 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 the entity that we commonly call "China." Themes to be explored include the historical causes and effects associated with the spread of Buddhism, the expansion of the civil service examinations, "alien" (Mongol and Manchu) rule over China, and intensifying commercialization during a millennium and a half of Chinese history.

**Required Texts:**

1. Patricia Ebrey. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge, 2010. [Abbreviated as *CIHC*]
2. John W. Chaffee. *The Thorny Gates of Learning in Sung China: a Social History of Examinations*. SUNY, 1995 (1985).
3. \*Morris Rossabi. *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ed. California, 2009 (1988). [.pdf on JSTOR]
4. \*Timothy Brook. *The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China*. California, 1998. [.pdf on JSTOR]

**Note:** Titles (above) and readings in the course schedule (below) marked by a **single blue asterisk (\*)** are accessible online through the Blackboard course site or the University Libraries catalog (JSTOR, HathiTrust, etc.). <http://library.gmu.edu/>

All required titles listed above are available for online purchase at the campus bookstore (Barnes & Noble).

Used copies may also be found on <http://bookfinder.com>

**Requirements & Grading:** Students must demonstrate serious engagement with *every* requirement in order to pass the course. The instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes "serious engagement." **Note:** *Calculations of cumulative course grades that appear in Blackboard are not necessarily correctly "weighted" and thus do not accurately reflect one's overall standing in the course. If you would like to know your overall course grade at any point in the semester, please contact the instructor via e-mail.*

**1. Participation (20%):** Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to be prepared. This means finishing assigned readings before coming to class. The quality of your verbal contributions both in class and online will be taken as indicators of engagement and participation. All opportunities to earn "extra credit" will count towards your participation grade.

**2. In-class Chronology Quiz (3%):** A study guide and detailed instructions will be provided. The quiz will be taken at the beginning of class on **Mon. 1/31/2022**. No make-ups will be allowed (unless prior arrangement has been made).

**3. Online Exercises (24%):** Students are responsible for completing **eight (8) online exercises (on Blackboard)**. **For exact due dates, see the Course Schedule below**. Each exercise will count as 3% of your overall course grade. More detailed instructions may be found in the Weekly Folders on the Blackboard course site.

**4. Papers (30%):** Students are required to complete **two (2) short (5-7 pg.) papers due (via Blackboard) on Sun. 3/13/2022 and Sun. 4/10/2022**. Each paper is worth 15% of your overall course grade. Detailed instructions available on Blackboard.

**5. Final Exam (23%):** essays submitted via Blackboard by **12:00 pm (noon) ET, Wed. 5/11/2022**. *No late work accepted.*

**Grading Scale:**

97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	59 and below	F
94-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
90-93	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

## Course Policies, Reminders, and Helpful Tips

**a) Basic technology requirements:** This is face-to-face course. However, asynchronous work will take place primarily on Blackboard, while live (in-person) classes will meet twice weekly on MW (and, if necessary, on the Zoom platform). For more details please see “What Technologies Do I Need?” on the “Start Here: Welcome” page of the Blackboard course site.

**b) 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.

**c) 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.

**d) Submission of written work:** All written work is due at the time(s) and on the day(s) 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 numbered. You should 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 copy is in the instructor’s hands. **No late work will be accepted for the final assignment.**

**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 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!

**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 (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/>

**h) Recording and distribution of class materials:** Any audio or visual recording by students of class meetings, lectures, discussions or other class activities is allowed only under terms and conditions as approved by George Mason University’s Office of Disability Services (ODS). If you are entitled to audio or visual recording through ODS, please communicate with me before any recording occurs. The results of a recording may only be used for personal use, unless I authorize use by other students in the course. Recordings and course material may not be reproduced or exchanged or distributed. At the end of the semester, you are required to destroy any recordings made in this course.

**i) 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, 9 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>

**j) 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.

### **k) Administrative deadlines**

Last day to add classes: Mon. 1/31/2022

Last day to drop (w/no tuition penalty): Mon. 2/7/2022

**l) 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.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 00 (Sun. 1/16/2022 – Sat. 1/22/2022): Course Orientation

**Read:** “Start Here: Welcome” and “Syllabus” pages on Blackboard

**Do:** **Check** basic tech set-up, **activate** your Zoom Basic account, and **verify** access to required books

### Week 01 (Sun. 1/23/2022 – Sat. 1/29/2022): Course Introduction

**Read:** *CIHC*, Forward and Preface (6-8); and Geography (11-14); [optional: Ch. 2 (38-59) and Ch. 3 (60-70 and 73-85)]

**Do:** **Post** a self-introduction to “HIST 353 Self Introductions” forum (Blackboard) **by 5:00 pm ET, Mon. 1/24/2022**

**Online Exercise #1:** Brainstorm

**Post** responses to “Online Exercise #1” forum (Blackboard) **by 5:00 pm ET, Mon. 1/24/2022**

**Study** for the Chronology Quiz (see Chronology Quiz Study Guide on Blackboard)

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 1/24/2022](#) and [Wed. 1/26/2022](#)

### Week 02 (Sun. 1/30/2022 – Sat. 2/5/2022): The Age of Division, 200-600

**Read:** *CIHC*, Ch. 4 (86-107) [Age of Division]

\*Albert Dien, "The Six Dynasties," in *Six Dynasties Civilization* (Yale, 2007): 1-14. [see Blackboard]

**Do:** **Study** for Chronology Quiz (see Chronology Quiz Study Guide on Blackboard)

**Attend:** [class meeting at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 1/31/2022](#) **\*\*IN-CLASS CHRONOLOGY QUIZ**

[class meeting at 10:30 am ET, Wed. 2/2/2022](#)

### Week 03 (Sun. 2/6/2022 – Sat. 2/12/2022): Buddhism and the Sui-Tang Transition

**Read:** \*”Introduction to Buddhism” *Spice Digest* (Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Fall 2007).

*CIHC*, Ch. 5 (108-135) [The Tang Dynasty]

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 2/7/2022](#) and [Wed. 2/9/2022](#)

### Week 04 (Sun. 2/13/2022 – Sat. 2/19/2022): Early and Late Tang

**Read:** \*John Kieschnick, Ch. 4 “Accidents and Incidentals” in *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture* (Princeton, 2003): 220-249 [only these pages; rest of chapter on sugar and tea (249-280) is optional]

**Do:** **Online Exercise #2:** How the Chair Came to China, or the Impact of Buddhism on Daily Life

**Submit** an **initial post** (create new thread) **by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 2/13/2022**

**Respond** to a classmate’s initial post **by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 2/15/2022**

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 2/14/2022](#) and [Wed. 2/16/2022](#)

### Week 05 (Sun. 2/20/2022 – Sat. 2/26/2022): Northern Song and the Civil Service Examinations

**Read:** *CIHC*, Ch. 6 (136-161) [The Song Dynasty]

Reading Guide for *The Thorny Gates of Learning* and Guidelines for Paper #1

\*Schrag, “How to Read a History Book”

Chaffee, *The Thorny Gates of Learning*, Preface (xxi-xxx), Ch. 1 (4-17), Ch. 2 (18-43), and Ch. 8 (182-188).

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 2/21/2022](#) and [Wed. 2/23/2022](#)

### Week 06 (Sun. 2/27/2022 – Sat. 3/5/2022): Southern Song and Survival

**Read:** Chaffee, *The Thorny Gates of Learning*, Ch. 3-7 (47-181); and review (re-read) Ch. 1 (4-17) and Ch. 8 (182-188)

**Do:** **Online Exercise #3:** Questions about Chaffee

**Submit** an **initial post** (create new thread) **by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 2/27/2022**

**Respond** to a classmate’s initial post **by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 3/1/2022**

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 2/28/2022](#) and [Wed. 3/2/2022](#)

### Week 07 (Sun. 3/6/2022 – Sat. 3/12/2022): Song Culture and Religion

**Do:** **Online Exercise #4:** Draft of Thesis Statement for Paper #1

**Post** “draft thesis statement” for Paper #1 **by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 3/6/2022**

**Extra credit:** Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 3/8/2022**

**Read:** \*”Rules for the Fan Lineage’s Charitable Estate” (for Mon.)

\*Li Qingzhao, “Epilogue to *Records on Metal and Stone*” (for Wed.)

**Attend:** [class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 3/7/2022](#) and [Wed. 3/9/2022](#)

**Do:** **Submit Paper #1** (via Blackboard) **by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 3/13/2022**

**Week 08 (Sun. 3/13/2022 – Sat. 3/19/2022) – SPRING RECESS – NO CLASSES**

**Read:** *CIHC*, Ch. 7 (164-185) [Alien Rule]  
 Reading Guide for *Khubilai Khan* and Guidelines for Paper #2  
 \*Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan*, Prefaces (xi-xxi) and Ch. 1-3 (1-75).

**Week 09 (Sun. 3/20/2022 – Sat. 3/26/2022): Mongol Society and World Empire**

**Read:** \*Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan*, Ch. 4-6 (76-176)  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 3/21/2022 and Wed. 3/23/2022

**Week 10 (Sun. 3/27/2022 – Sat. 4/2/2022): Khubilai Khan and China Under Mongol Rule**

**Read:** \*Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan*, Ch. 7-8 (177-231)  
 \*"A Mongol Governor"  
**Do:** **Online Exercise #5:** Questions about Rossabi  
**Submit** an initial post (create new thread) by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 3/27/2022  
**Respond** to a classmate's initial post by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 3/29/2022  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 3/28/2022 and Wed. 3/30/2022

**Week 11 (Sun. 4/3/2022 – Sat. 4/9/2022): The Yuan-Ming Transition**

**Read:** [no new reading; work on Paper #2 and writing draft thesis statement]  
**Do:** **Online Exercise #6:** Draft of Thesis Statement for Paper #2  
**Post** "draft thesis statement" for Paper #2 by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 4/3/2022  
**Extra credit:** Provide feedback on a classmate's thesis statement by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 4/5/2022  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 4/4/2022 and Wed. 4/6/2022

**Week 12 (Sun. 4/10/2021 – Sat. 4/16/2022): Early Ming**

**Do:** **Submit Paper #2** (via Blackboard) by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 4/10/2022  
**Read:** *CIHC*, Ch. 8 (190-219) [The Ming Dynasty] (for Wed)  
 Reading Guide for *The Confusions of Pleasure* and Guidelines for Final Exam (for Wed)  
 \*Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, Preface and Chronology (xv-xxii) and Introduction (1-13) (for Wed)  
 \*"Proclamations of the Hongwu Emperor" (for Wed)  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 4/11/2022 and Wed. 4/13/2022

**Week 13 (Sun. 4/17/2022 – Sat. 4/23/2022): Mid- and Late-Ming**

**Read:** \*Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, "Winter" (17-85) and "Spring" [first-half] (86-124)  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 4/18/2022 and Wed. 4/20/2022

**Week 14 (Sun. 4/24/2021 – Sat. 4/30/2022): The Ming-Qing Transition**

**Read:** \*Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, "Spring" [second-half] (124-152) and "Summer" (153-237)  
 \*"Family Instructions" [Patriarch Miao rdg.]  
*CIHC*, Ch. 9 (220-236 only) [early- to mid-Qing] (for Wed)  
**Do:** **Online Exercise #7:** Questions about Brook  
**Submit** an initial post (create new thread) by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 4/24/2022  
**Respond** to a classmate's initial post by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 4/26/2022  
**Attend:** class meetings at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 4/25/2022 and Wed. 4/27/2022

**Week 15 (Sun. 5/1/2022 – Sat. 5/7/2022): The Qing Conquest and Consolidation**

**Read:** \*Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, "Fall" (238-262)  
**Do:** **Online Exercise #8:** draft thesis for Final Exam (Part A)  
**Post** "draft thesis statement" for Final Exam (Part A) by 5:00 pm ET, Sun. 5/1/2022  
**Extra credit:** Provide feedback on a classmate's thesis statement by 5:00 pm ET, Tue. 5/3/2022  
**Attend:** class meeting at 10:30 am ET, Mon. 5/2/2022 and Wed. 5/4/2022

**Exam Period (Wed. 5/11/2022 – Wed. 5/18/2022)**

**Do:** **Submit Final Exam** (via "Exam Period" folder on Blackboard) by 12:00 pm (noon) ET, Wed. 5/11/2022  
*No late work accepted for the Final Exam.*