



Pre-1911 History of China

HIST 201 / ANTH 303

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pre-1911 History of China (HIST 201 / ANTH 303) explores the history of China from the formation of the first dynasties to the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911. It builds from events of everyday life to follow the broad social changes that defined each period throughout Chinese history. HIST 201 pays special attention to the effect that the outside world has had upon China throughout its history. Going from dynasty to dynasty, there is a focus on the key events, figures, trends, and ideas that shaped each historical period. This course is taught almost exclusively in English (any Chinese will be translated when necessary).

GRADING

Any student who misses more than 1/3 of the classes will fail. Failure to complete any of these requirements will result in automatic failure for the course.

- Essay 1 30%
- Essay 2 30%
- Short Writing Assignments and Discussion Topics 20%
- Classroom Participation and Readings 20%

REQUIRED READINGS

- The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600; Hansen, Valerie; (Norton, 2000)
- The Search for Modern China; Spence, Jonathan D.; (New York: W.W. Norton, 1999)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1: Inventing China and Chinese Dynasties: 1200 BC- 200 AD

- The Open Empire: Chapter 1

Week 2: The World of Confucius

- The Open Empire: Chapter 2

Week 3: Emperor Qin and the Creation of an Empire

- The Open Empire: Chapter 3

Week 4: China's Religious Landscape: Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism

- The Open Empire: Chapter 4

Week 5: China's Golden Age and the Tang Dynasty: 589-755

- The Open Empire: Chapter 5

Week 6: The An Lushan Rebellion and Its Aftermath

- The Open Empire: Chapter 6



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Week 7: The Song Dynasty

- The Open Empire: Chapter 7

Week 8: The Northern Dynasties

- The Open Empire: Chapter 8
- Essay #1 Due

Week 9: The Mongols

- The Open Empire: Chapter 9

Week 10: The Ming Dynasty

- The Open Empire: Chapter 10

Week 11: The Qing Dynasty

- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 1-3

Week 12: Qianlong and Kangxi

- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 4-5

Week 13: The Opium Wars

- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 6-7

Week 14: Late Qing Reform and Revolution

- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 10-11

Week 15: The Collapse of the Dynasties

- The Search for Modern China: Chapters 12-13
- Essay #2 Due