San José State University
College of Social Science/ Department of History

HIST 109A (01)/ASIA 109A

History of China to 1800

Fall 2018-4 units

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Xiaojia Hou
Office Location: DMH 137
Telephone: 408-924-5520
Email: Xiaojia.hou@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9 AM-10:15 AM, 1:30-3PM
Wednesdays, 9 AM-11AM
Thursdays, 9AM-10:15 AM

Class Days/Time: T/TH 12-13:15 PM
Classroom: DMH 167

Course Description

This 4-unit course is intended as a broad introduction to major themes, issues, personalities and events of “pre-modern China.” It covers an enormous sweep of time – from Neolithic era to 1800, and is highly selective, with choices determined in part by Chinese notions of historical significance, in part by the efforts to revoke those notions. China’s interactions with the world and environmental history will be emphasized.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Describe and explain the major events and themes in Chinese history before 1800. Assessed by short essay questions on exams and by ten response papers.

CLO2: Describe and explain the concept of “dynastic cycle” and China’s interactions with the world. Assessed by long essay questions on the final exam.
CLO3: Summarize and critically analyze historical documents/novels. Assessed by the presentation, ten response papers and essay writing.

CLO4: Present their findings to the classmates, respond to critiques, and learn to constructively critique the work of other classmates. Assessed by response papers, class discussion and presentations.

CLO5: Write historical essays with a strong thesis and clear evidence of historical thinking. Assessed by response papers, essay questions on exams, essay proposal and essay writing.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
Patricia Buckley Ebrey, The Cambridge Illustrated History of China
Patricia Buckley Ebrey ed, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook
Jacques Gernet, Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion, 1250-1276
Jonathan Spence, The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci

Other Readings
Additional documents and articles will be posted on the Canvas site, as indicated by * in the syllabus. Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class. The tentative course schedule indicates details on the readings and the dates by which reading assignments must be completed.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. Assignments include reading the textbook, reading assigned documents, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, making oral presentations and writing multiple papers. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 8-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

Each Thursday, we will discuss the weekly question as indicated in the syllabus. You need to submit a short response paper before the discussion. You will be asked to write one essay proposal, one essay on a topic of your choice to illuminate aspects of life in traditional China. Each student is also required to make an in-class presentation on a topic you choose. You will also take one midterm exam and one final exam.
Final Examination and Evaluation

Exams. One mid-term exam and one final exam.

Reading Response Papers. Each week students will write a short response paper to address the assigned weekly question. Students need to submit TEN response papers total.

Essay Proposal (1 page). Write a brief narrative describing your topic and how you find materials relevant to that topic. You are encouraged to consult with the instructor during office hours on your essay proposal.

Final Essay (5 pages). This essay is to illuminate aspects of life in traditional China (possible choices include religions, social relations, love, crime, ghosts, gender and fox demons…), building upon your proposal. It should include an introduction; historical narrative and analysis supporting your thesis; a conclusion; and a source bibliography.

Oral Presentation. Each student is required to make an in-class oral presentation. After each presentation there will be a short period in which the presenter responds to questions or comments from the audience, including feedback from the instructor.

All written assignments, with the exception of exams, must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font), and have one-inch margins. Written assignments will be graded on both content and composition.

Grading Information

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Response papers (10)</td>
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<td>Essay proposal</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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China to 1800, HIST/ASIA 109A -001, Fall, 2018
**Classroom Protocol**

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Do NOT interfere with other students’ learning. Do NOT chat, interrupt, pass notes, eat noisily, take calls, check messages, or text in class. Students who come and go repeatedly may be prohibited from reentering. If you have a question during class, raise your hand. There will always be time for questions and discussion at the end of the class period.

**University Policies (Required)**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”
## Course Schedule

All dates and assignments in this syllabus are subject to modification. Any changes will be announced during the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Aug 21 & 23 | Tuesday: The Layout of the Land and the Origins of Chinese Civilization  
Thursday: Shang Dynasty and Western Zhou  
Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 1  
*Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* (Hereafter as *Source Book*), 3-13 |
| 2    | Aug 28 & 30 | Tuesday: Philosophical Foundations: Eastern Zhou, Daoism and Legalism  
Thursday: Confucianism  
Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 2  
*Source Book*, 14-50  
Question: What is the difference between Laozi’s “way” and Confucius’s “way”? |
| 3    | Sept 4 & 6 | Tuesday: Qin Dynasty and the First Emperor  
Thursday: Han Dynasty  
Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 3  
*Source Book*, 51-68.  
Article “Dong Zhongshu’s Transformation of Yin-Yang” *  
Question: If you are going to rule China, which school will you endorse? Why? |
| 4    | Sept 11 & 13 | Tuesday: The Silk Roads  
Thursday: The Age of Division  
*Source Book*, 72-90  
Article “Silk Roads and World History” *  
Ban Zhao’s “Admonitions for Women” *  
Question: What had been transported along the Silk Roads? |
<p>| 5    | Sept 18 &amp; 20 | Tuesday: Buddhism and Chinese Culture |</p>
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| 6    | Sept 25 & 27 | **Tuesday:** Tang Rules  
 **Thursday:** Song Dynasty  
 Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, Chapter 5-6  
 *Source Book*, 120-150.  
 “The Story of Miss Li” *  
 Question: What moral principles do we learn from “The Story of Miss Li?” |
| 7    | Oct 2 & 4   | **Tuesday:** Reform, Life and Women in Song  
 **Thursday:** Water and Wars in North China  
 Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 6  
 “Ten Thousand Word Memorial” *  
 *Source Book*, 151-154  
 Article “Changing with the Yellow River” *  
 Question: Why did Wang Anshi’s reform fail? |
| 8    | Oct 9 & 11  | **Tuesday:** Review  
 **Thursday:** Midterm Exam  
 Readings: *Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion, 1250-1276*, Chapter 3-7 |
| 9    | Oct 16 & 18 | **Tuesday:** Student Presentation  
 **Thursday:** Rise of the Mongols and Yuan Dynasty  
 Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 7  
 Selected chapters of *Marco Polo Journey* *  
 Question: Did Marco Polo really visit China? |
| 10   | Oct 23 & 25 | **Tuesday:** The Fall of Yuan and the Restoration of “Chinese” Rule  
 **Thursday:** Ming life and Ming Culture  
 Readings: *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, chapter 8  
 *Source Book*, 203-266.  
 Article “Dietary Decadence and Dynastic Decline” * |
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|      |      | **The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci, Chapter 1-3**  
Question: Why did the Yuan Dynasty fall? |
| 11   | Oct 30 & Nov 1 | Tuesday: Ming’s Fall  
Thursday: **Student Presentation**  
Readings: The Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 9  
Source Book, 267-322.  
The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci, chapter 4-6 |
| 12   | Nov 6 & 8 | **Tuesday: Student Presentation**  
Thursday: The Rise of Manchus  
Readings: The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci, chapter 7-9  
Question: In your opinion, what was the unique feature of Ming Dynasty?  
**Essay Proposal due Nov 6** |
| 13   | Nov 13 & 15 | Tuesday: Qing Dynasty  
Thursday: Movie Showing  
Readings: The Cambridge Illustrated History of China, Chapter 9 |
| 14   | Nov 20 & 22 | Tuesday: TBA  
Thursday: No Class, Thanksgiving Break |
| 15   | Nov 27 & 29 | Tuesday: The Long 18th Century  
Thursday: China’s Contact with the World  
Readings: “McCartney’s Letters to Qianlong” *  
Question: What were the changes that fundamentally transformed China’s economy between 16th century and 18th century |
| 16   | Dec 4 & 6 | Tuesday: Into the 19th century: Forest, Water and People  
Thursday: Review and Discussions  
Readings: Article “Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization” *  
Question: How did the Yellow River impact Chinese history?  
**Essay due Dec 6.** |
| **Final Exam** | December 14 | 9:45 AM -12:00 PM |