HISTORY G380
EARLY CHINA
Fall 2012

Time: MWF 1:25-2:15
Classroom: Woodburn Hall 007

Instructor: Robert Eno
Office: Goodbody 328; Mail: Goodbody 232
(855-5373; e-mail: eno@indiana.edu)
OH: M 11:15-12:15; W 12:00-1:00

This course will explore the social, political, and intellectual trends of ancient China, with particular emphasis on the relationship in early China between concepts of the past, perspectives of the present, and visions of the future.

The course will span a millennium and a half, from China's Bronze Age (beginning about 1500 B.C.) to the emergence and stabilization of China's imperial state in the first century B.C. We will, however, examine this long period in chronological sequence. Instead, we will begin by anchoring ourselves in the culture of Classical China (771-221 B.C.), a romantic era of political fragmentation and intellectual ferment that is usually regarded as critical to the formation of the "Confucian" culture that dominated China from the early Imperial era to the beginning of this century.

During the first half of the course, our goal will be to become fully familiar with the cultural perspective of the Classical period, particularly with the Classical understanding of its own past and its expectations for the future. In the second section of the course, we will examine the pre-Classical era through archaeological sources largely unknown to Classical culture, and we will compare the Classical conception of its past to the more analytical portrait offered through modern scholarship. In the final section of the course, we will study the early years of the post-Classical period, and compare Classical expectations of the future with the future that ultimately emerged.

Course readings will include writings of modern scholarship, but primary source materials will be particularly stressed.

Graded Requirements. There will be homework assignments, occasional quizzes, one group project, a midterm exam, and a final exam. During the first half of the term, students will keep a journal for readings outside of online course text materials. A paper of approximately 7 pages will be due on Dec. 7. Grading will be approximately weighted as follows: midterm 15%; final 20%; journal 15%; term paper 15%; class participation 20%; quizzes/homework 15%. For grading policies (grading criteria, late papers, missed assignments etc.), see the G380 website. Please be sure to read the policy on academic dishonesty, also on the course website.

Texts. All readings will be available online.

Website. The G380 web site will be an important part of the course. Apart from basic information about the class, the site will be the medium through which homework and reading assignment sheets, test preparation and paper guides, photo galleries, and many other types of information will be conveyed. Students should check the site at least three times a week, between classes. The home page address is:

http://www.indiana.edu/~g380/Main.html
## Schedule of Classes

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Week 6  
Sept. 24  Daoist thought: the *Dao de jing*  
*Daoism*, pp. 1-10  
Sept. 26  Zhuangzi  
*Daoism*, pp. 11-28  
Sept. 28  Naturalism  
*Naturalistic Schools of Thought*  

Week 7  
Oct. 1  The Confucian response to Naturalism: Xunzi  
*Xunzi*  
Oct. 3  Legalism and the basis of the Qin Revolution  
*Legalism*  
Oct. 5  Religious beliefs  
*Spiritual Beliefs and Regional Religion*  

Week 8  
Oct. 8  **Midterm**  

| Week 9 |  
| Oct. 15 | The deities of the Shang world  
*The Sexagenary Number-Date System*  
*The Oracle Texts*  
*Shang Religion*  
Oct. 17 | Shang bronzes  
*Shang Kingship and Shang Kinship*  
*Shang Ritual Bronzes*  
Oct. 19 | The Neolithic record and disappearing societies  
*Neolithic China*  

Week 10  
Oct. 22  Shang society and the nature of the Shang polity  
*Shang Society*  
Oct. 24  The Western Zhou  
*The History of the Western Zhou*  
Oct. 26  Sources for the Western Zhou – Group Project Meetings  
*Inscriptional Records of the Western Zhou*  

Week 11  
**Group reports on Western Zhou inscriptions & history**  
Oct. 29  Inscriptions of the early Western Zhou (I)  
Oct. 31  Inscriptions of the early Western Zhou (II)  
Nov. 2  Inscriptions of the early Western Zhou (III)
Part III: The Post-Classical “Future”

Week 12
Nov. 5  Bridging the Pre-Classical and Post-Classical Eras
       *Introduction to Imperial China
       *The Qin Dynasty, pp. 1-7
Nov. 7  The Qin Revolution
       *The Qin Dynasty, pp. 8-27
Nov. 9  Qin law
       *The Laws of the Qin

Week 13
Nov. 12 Post-Qin civil war
       *The Rise of the Han
Nov. 14 The establishment of the Han state
       *The Reigns of the Early Han Emperors
Nov. 16 Early Han ideology
       Huang-Lao Ideology

*** Week of November 19: Thanksgiving Break ***

Week 14
Nov. 26 Han Dynasty Metaphysical Thought
       *Yin-Yang Five-Forces Theory
       *The Arts of the Fangshi
Nov. 28 The reign of Han Emperor Wu
       *The Reign of Wu-di (140-87 B.C.)
Nov. 30 Confucianism in the early Han
       *The Fortunes of Confucianism

Week 15
Dec. 3  Our historical lens on early China
       *Sima Qian and Our View of Early China
Dec. 5  The Yi jing
       *The Yi jing, or Book of Changes
Dec. 7  History as moral wisdom in the Confucian tradition
       *The Spring and Autumn Annals

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Final Exam:  Friday, December 10, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Woodburn 007