Objectives: This course introduces students to Chinese society, culture, and history from the beginnings to the age of the mature late imperial state formation in the 16th century and provides an entry point for further study of China. A topical approach within a chronological framework will allow us to highlight major issues and transitions during this long period of history. The idea of a unitary “China” will be problematized as we discover the multiple sources of “Chinese civilization.” The written assignments are aimed at developing analytical skills as well as skills in clear exposition of ideas. The document assignments provide students with the opportunity to engage with primary sources by thinking through the sorts of questions historians put to such materials. Discussions are an opportunity for us to raise questions and share insights.

Format and Requirements: A lecture course meeting 10:00 MWF. Questions are welcomed at any time. Attendance at lectures, films, and discussions is an integral part of the course, is required and figures into your grade. Students are responsible for material presented in class and in reading assignments. I encourage you to take advantage of office hours for consultation and discussion. Please take an opportunity to introduce yourself if we haven’t met, during office hours or at another time.
Writing Assignments: Electronic submission please. Keep a backup copy.

1. Responses to primary source readings: For a number of assignments in de Bary, et al, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, I will post on the Chinese Civilization Blackboard web site questions for your response. The questions will be designed to engage you with the primary sources in the ways historians do, to relate them to the history we are studying, and to raise questions about the ideas they suggest. Each student is responsible for submitting 4. Dates for submission are in the syllabus, with reminders on the web site. Responses should be around 500-750 words (2-3 pp.). 40%

2. Map Exercise: A short research assignment, download from web site. Due Mon. Sept. 14 in class. 5%

3. In-class mid-term examination consisting of short-answer and essay portions. 15%

4. Due by Nov. 25: a short analytical essay (ca. 8 pp.) bearing on one of the books read for the course. I will provide suggested topics or you may consult with me. 15%

5. The final exam is cumulative in coverage and its date is shown at the end of the syllabus. 15%

6. Attendance and participation: 10%

All assigned work must be completed to receive credit for the course.

Honor Code: All work is governed by the Honor Code: (see http://www.oberlin.edu/students/life/rules-reg.html - honor). Any student found cheating, plagiarizing, turning in another’s work as his/her own or otherwise violating the instructor’s explicit or implicit instructions will be subject to a hearing before the Student Honor Committee. To learn more about the code, please see the URL above.

**DEADLINES FOR WRITTEN WORK**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>First document response</td>
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<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Final examination 2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
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Chinese Civilization

Texts available for purchase at the Bookstore (or elsewhere):

Wm. Theodore deBary, et al, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition: From Earliest Times to 1600*
John Wills, *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History*
Kenneth J. Hammond, ed. *The Human Tradition in Premodern China*
Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History*
Morris Rossabi, *Kublai Khan, His Life and Times*

Lecture Schedule and Readings:

**Introductory Matters**

Aug. 31 (M) Introduction to the Course  
Sept. 2 (W) Land and Ecologies: The Geographical Setting

**From the Neolithic Revolution to the Emergence of a Polity**

Sept. 4 (F) Neolithic Origins  
Sept. 7 (M) **Labor Day: No Class**  
Sept. 9 (W) The World of Shang  
Sept. 11 (F) **No Class**

Readings:

de Bary, et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 1-40 (41 pp.)  
Hammond, Human Tradition in Premodern China, xv-13 (20 pp.)  
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, xi-10 (16 pp.)

**Foundations of Chinese Thought**

Sept. 14 (M) The Imperial Ideal: State and Society in Zhou Times  
Sept. 16 (W) Social Change and Political Fragmentation in Late Zhou  
Sept. 18 (F) Confucius and Confucianism

Readings:

de Bary, et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 41-63 (23 pp.)  
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 11-32 (22 pp.)

Sept. 21 (M) Mo Zi  
Sept. 23 (W) What is Daoism? Laozi and Zhuangzi  
Sept. 25 (F) Late Confucianism: Mencius and Xunzi
Readings:

de Bary, Sources, Mozi and Daoism pp. 64-111; Mencius 112-118 top; 124 middle-through 1B:8; 134 middle through 3B:9; 138: 4A:3-142 4B:28; Xunzi 159-160; 179 (Chapter 23)-183; Zuozhuan 183-189 7 (74 pp.)

The Early Empire

Sept. 28 (M) Yom Kippur: No Class
Sept. 30 (W) The First Emperor: Legalism and the Qin Unification
Oct. 2 (F) State and Statecraft in the Han

Readings:

de Bary, Sources, pp. 190-223 (34 pp.)
Hammond, Human Tradition in Premodern China, 15-25 (11 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, 33-71 (39 pp.)

Oct. 5 (M) Agriculture and Political Economy: Tilling and Weaving
Oct. 7 (W) The Han Collapse and the Period of Division
Oct. 9 (F) Buddhism

Readings:

Hammond, Human Tradition in Premodern China, 27-55 (29 pp.)
Begin Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History
Wills, Mountain of Fame, 72-99 (28 pp.)

Oct. 12 (M) Buddhism in China
Oct. 14 (W) Review and Discussion
Oct. 16 (F) Examination

Readings:

Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History complete for Wednesday discussion
deBary, Sources, pp. 415-436; 481-504 (46 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, 100-126 (27 pp.)

Oct. 17-25 Fall Recess
Chinese Civilization

**The Middle Empire**

Oct. 26 (M) The Middle Empire: The Sui Unification  
Oct. 28 (W) The Middle Empire: High Tang  
Oct. 30 (F) The Empress Wu and Female Rule in China

**Readings**

de Bary, *Sources*, pp. 539-546, 564-567 (11 pp.)  
Hammond, *Human Tradition in Premodern China*, 57-92 (36 pp.)  
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 127-167 (41 pp.)

**The Emergence of the Later Empire**

Nov. 2 (M) The Tang-Song Watershed and the Birth of Modern China  
Nov. 4 (W) The Song State  
Nov. 6 (F) Neo-Confucian Education

**Readings**

de Bary, *Sources*, pp. 329-339, 568-586 (30 pp.)  
Hammond, *Human Tradition in Premodern China*, 93-109 (17 pp.)  
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 168-180 (23 pp.)

Nov. 9 (M) Gender Roles and Relations from the Song Vantage Point  
Nov. 11 (W) Discussion: Middle Period China and the Song Transition  
Nov. 13 (F) Pastoral Nomads and the Chinese Empire

**Readings:**

de Bary, *Sources*, pp. 587-596; 667-671; 689-690; 697-699; 720-731; 819-840 (57 pp.)  
Hammond, *Human Tradition in Premodern China*, 111-125 (15 pp.)  
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 181-200 (20 pp.)  
Rossabi, *Kubilai Khan*, begin

Nov. 16 (M) Storm from the East: Genghis Khan and the Rise of the Mongols  
Nov. 18 (W) Storm from the East: The Mongols in History  
Nov. 20 (F) Discussion: “Storm from the East”

**Readings:**

de Bary, *Sources*, pp. 764-779; 778-779 (17 pp.)  
Rossabi, *Kubilai Khan*, complete for discussion
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Nov. 23 (M) China under the Mongols: The Yuan Dynasty
Nov. 25 (W) Discussion: Rossabi, Kubilai Khan / Mountain of Fame / Human Traditon
Nov. 27 (F) Thanksgiving Break - No Class

Late Imperial State and Society

Nov. 30 (M) The Rise of the Ming: From Rebel to Emperor
Dec.  2 (W) Wall-building and the Great Wall in Chinese History
Dec.  4 (F) Contours of Ming History

Readings:

de Bary, Sources, 779-796 (18 pp.)
Hammond, Human Tradition in Premodern China, 127-141 (15 pp.)

Dec.  7 (M) Late Imperial China
Dec.  9 (W) China in the World in the 17th Century
Dec. 11 (F) Discussion and Review

Readings:

Hammond, Human Tradition in Premodern China, 143-164 (21 pp.)
deBary, Sources, 841-842; 850-852; 855-860; 864-870 (18 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, 201-215 (15 pp.)

Reading Period Sat. Dec. 12-Tues. Dec. 14
Final Exam: Wednesday Thursday, Dec. 17, 2:00-4:00 p.m.