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. Appointments are available through Blackboard.

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 four assignments. 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. 5%

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

4. **A short analytical essay** (ca. 5-8 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.

If you are eligible for and need academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability, please speak to me early in the semester, or contact the Office of Disability Services at [http://new.oberlin.edu/office/disability-services/](http://new.oberlin.edu/office/disability-services/).

**Honor Code:** All work is governed by the Honor Code: (see [http://www.oberlin.edu/studentpolicies/honorcode/](http://www.oberlin.edu/studentpolicies/honorcode/)). 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.

Please keep laptops closed during class. Divided attention while using a laptop interferes with learning and Internet browsing may distract those who can see the screen.

**DEADLINES FOR WRITTEN WORK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Map Assignment due in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>First document response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Midterm examination (take-home)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Second document response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Third document response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>Short Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Fourth document response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</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., *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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Land and Ecologies: The Geographical Setting</td>
</tr>
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**From the Neolithic Revolution to the Emergence of a Polity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Neolithic Origins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>The World of Shang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>The Imperial Ideal: State and Society in Zhou Times</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Social Change and Political Fragmentation in Late Zhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>The World of Thought before Confucius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Confucius and Confucianism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings:**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mo Zi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Classical Confucianism: Mencius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Classical Confucianism: Xunzi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinese Civilization

Readings:

de Bary, Sources, Mozi and Daoism pp. 64-111; Mencius112-118 top; 124 middle-through 1B:8; 134 middle through 3B:9; 138: 4A:3-142 4B:28; Xunzi 159-160; 179 (Chapter 23)-183; Zuo zhuan 183-189 7 (74 pp.)

The Early Empire

Sept.  29 (M)  What is Daoism? Laozi and Zhuangzi
Oct.  1  (W)  Legalism: Laws and Methods
Oct.  3  (F)  The First Emperor and the Qin Unification

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.  6  (M)  State and Statecraft in the Han
Oct.  8  (W)  Agriculture and Political Economy: Tilling and Weaving
Oct. 10  (F)  The Han Collapse and the Period of Division

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.  13  (M)  Buddhism
Oct. 15  (W)  Buddhism in China
Oct. 17  (F)  No Class: Take-home midterm due by 11:59 pm

Readings:

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

Oct.  18-26  Fall Recess

The Middle Empire
Chinese Civilization

Oct. 27 (M) The Middle Empire: The Sui Unification
Oct. 29 (W) The Middle Empire: High Tang
Oct. 31 (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. 3 (M) The Tang-Song Watershed and the Birth of Modern China
Nov. 5 (W) Discussion
Nov. 7 (F) The Song State

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. 10 (M) Neo-Confucian Education
Nov. 12 (W) Gender Roles and Relations from the Song Vantage Point
Nov. 14 (F) Discussion

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. 17 (M) Pastoral Nomads and the Chinese Empire
Nov. 19 (W) Storm from the East: Birth of An Empire
Nov. 21 (F) Storm from the East: World Conquerors

Readings:

de Bary, Sources, pp. 764-779; 778-779 (17 pp.)
Rossabi, Kubilai Khan, complete for discussion
Chinese Civilization

Nov. 24 (M) China under the Mongols: The Yuan Dynasty
Nov. 26 (W) Discussion: Rossabi, Wills, Hammond readings and videos
Nov. 28 (F) No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Late Imperial State and Society
Dec. 1 (M) The Rise of the Ming: From Rebel to Emperor
Dec. 3 (W) Wall-building and the Great Wall in Chinese History
Dec. 5 (F) Contours of Ming History

Readings:

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

Dec. 8 (M) The Late Empire in World History
Dec. 10 (W) China in the World in the 17th Century
Dec. 12 (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 Dec. 13-16
Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 19, 2:00-4:00 p.m.