Objectives: This is an introduction to Chinese society, culture and history from their origins into the 17th century. It provides an entry point for further study of China. It is a topical approach within a chronological framework and highlights major issues and transitions. By examining multiple sources of Chinese civilization it brings into question the notion of China as monolith. The reading assignments include primary sources in translation and biographies of individuals who in some ways embody the spirit and ethos of their times.

Format and requirements: This is a lecture course that meets at 10:00 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Attendance at lectures and participation in discussions are integral to the course and are required. Students are responsible for the material presented in class and in the reading assignments. Submission of all written work and taking the two examinations are mandatory.

Writing Assignments: Electronic submission welcomed, but not necessary.

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

1. Responses to primary source readings: For the reading assignments in Wm T. deBary et al, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition: From Earliest Times to 1600 I will provide questions for your response. The questions are designed to engage you with primary sources, to relate them to the lectures and raise questions about the ideas they suggest. Each student is responsible for submitting a minimum of four, at least two before fall break. Responses should be around 500-700 words (2-3 pages). These will count for 30% of the final grade.
2. Map Exercise: A short research assignment. Due Monday, September 15 in class. **This will be 10% of the final grade.**

3. In class mid-term exam consisting of short-answer questions and essays. **This will be 20% of the final grade.**

4. A short essay (5-8 pages) bearing on one of the books read for the course. I will provide suggested topics. This is due no later than November 26. **This will be 20% of the grade.**

5. The final exam will cover the entire course and will consist of short-answer and essay questions. **This will be 20%.**

**Honor Code:** All work is governed by the Honor Code (see [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-jets.html-honor](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-jets.html-honor)). A student found cheating, plagiarizing, turning in another’s work or otherwise violating the instructor’s explicit for implicit instructions will be subject to a hearing before the Student Honor Committee.

**DEADLINES FOR WRITTEN WORK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Map assignment due in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Oct. 15</td>
<td>At least two document responses due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>In-class mid-term exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Nov. 26</td>
<td>Short essay on topic from reading questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Dec. 12</td>
<td>Two remaining document responses due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Final Exam 2:00-4:00</td>
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</table>

**Texts available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:**

Wm T. 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*
LECTURES AND READINGS

Setting the Foundation
Sept. 3  (W)  Chinese Civilization: Contrasts and Language
Sept. 5  (F)  China: Land, Ecologies and Peoples

From the Neolithic to the Emergence of a Chinese Polity

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition, pp. 1-40 (41 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, xi-10 (16 pp.)
Hammond, The Human Tradition in Premodern China, xv-13 (20 pp.)

Sept. 8  (M)  Neolithic Origins of Chinese Civilization
Sept. 10 (W)  The World of Shang
Sept. 12 (F)  The Imperial Ideal: State and Society in Zhou Times
Sept. 15 (M)  Social Change and Fragmentation in the Late Zhou

Foundations of Chinese Thought: The Axial Age

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition, pp. 41-63 (23 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, pp. 11-32 (22 pp.)

Sept. 17  (W)  The World of Ancient Thought
Sept. 19  (F)  Confucius and Confucianism

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition, 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; 179-183 (Chapter 23) Zuozhuan 183-189 7 (74 pp.)

Sept. 22  (M)  Mo Zi’s Challenge to Confucius
Sept. 24  (W)  The Dao: Laozi and Zhuangzi
Sept. 26  (F)  Late Confucianism: Mencius, Xunzi
Sept. 29  (M)  Review and Discussion

The Early Empire

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition, pp. 190-223 (34 pp.)
Wills, Mountain of Fame, 33-71 (39 pp.)
Hammond, The Human Tradition in Premodern China, pp. 15-25 (11 pp.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>(W)</td>
<td>Legalism and Qin Unification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>(F)</td>
<td>State and Statecraft in the Han</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Readings:**
- Begin Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History* pp. 1-64 (64 pp.)
- Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 72-99 (28 pp.)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>Han Agriculture and Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>(W)</td>
<td>The Han Collapse and Period of Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>(F)</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings:**
- Finish Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History* pp. 65-127 (62 pp.)
- Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, 100-126 (27 pp.)
- deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 415-436; 481-504 (46 pp.)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>Chinese Buddhism (James Dobbins, Religion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>(W)</td>
<td><strong>Review and Discussion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>(F)</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Examination</strong></td>
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**Oct. 18-26**  
**Fall Recess**

**The Middle Empire**

**Readings:**
- deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 539-546; 564-567 (11 pp.)
- Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 127-167 (41 pp.)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>The Sui Unification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>(W)</td>
<td>The Tang Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>(F)</td>
<td>Tang Culture: High and Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>Empress Wu and Female Rule in China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Later Empire**

**Readings:**
- deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 329-339; 568-586 (30 pp)
- Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 168-180 (23 pp.)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>(W)</td>
<td>Tang-Song Watershed and the Beginnings of Modern China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nov. 7  (F)  The Song State
Nov. 10 (M)  Neo-Confucian Education

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 587-596; 667-671; 689-690; 697-699; 720-731; 819-840 (57 pp.)
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 181-200 (20 pp.)
Hammond, *The Human Tradition in Premodern China*, 111-125 (15 pp.)
Begin Rossabi, *Kublai Khan*, pp. 1-114 (114 pp.)

Nov. 12  (W)  Gender Roles from the Song Vantage Point
Nov. 14  (F)  Chinese Art through History: visit the Allen Art Museum
Nov. 17  (M)  Review and Discussion

**The Mongol Conquest**

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 764-779; 778-779 (17 pp.)

Nov. 19  (W)  Pastoral Nomads and the Chinese Empire
Nov. 21  (F)  Genghis Khan and the Rise of the Mongols
Nov. 24  (M)  China Under the Mongols: The Yuan Dynasty
Nov. 26  (W)  Review and Discussion

Nov. 28  (F)  Thanksgiving break, no class

**Late Imperial State and Society**

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 779-796 (18 pp.)

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
Dec. 8  (M)  Late Imperial China

Readings:
deBary et al, eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 841-842; 850-852; 855-860; 864-870 (18 pp.)
Wills, *Mountain of Fame*, pp. 201-215 (15 pp.)
Hammond, *The Human Tradition in Premodern China*, 143-164 (21 pp.)
Dec. 10 (W)  China and the World in the 17th Century
Dec. 12 (F)  Review and Discussion
Dec. 13-15  Reading Period
Dec. 18 (W)  Final Exam 2:00-4:00 pm