Course Title : INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE HISTORY

Course Code : HST115

Recommended Study Year* : 2

No. of Credits/Term : 3

Mode of Tuition : Sectional

Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week

Category in Major Prog. : Required Elective

Prerequisite(s) : None

Co-requisite(s) : None

Exclusion(s) ; : None

Exemption Requirement(s) : (if any)

Brief Course Description : This course is an introduction to the history of China from the earliest time to the present, with emphasis on topics chosen from political, social, cultural, and intellectual aspects of China’s historical development.

Aims : 1) To introduce students to the important people, events, and trends in Chinese history from imperial times to the present.

2) To familiarize students with select primary sources.

3) To familiarize students with some important secondary scholarship in the West.

4) To help students place Chinese history into a broader context of comparative history.

Learning Outcomes : 1) A new foundation in Chinese history for the uninitiated and a more nuanced foundation for those with previous exposure.

2) Enhanced appreciation of cross-cultural perspectives as pertains to China’s relations with its neighbors.

3) Familiarity with a thematic approach to historical development.

4) Ability to conceptualize about and discuss Chinese history in English.

5) Enhanced written skills in English through the writing of papers; enhanced oral skills through classroom discussion.

Indicative Content : I. The Formation of China
A. From prehistory to the Three Dynasties
B. Xia, Shang, Zhou and early Chinese society
C. Warring states and the unification of China

II. A Unified China
A. A central government under the Han
B. Confucianism as state ideology
C. Expansion of Chinese territories

III. Disunion of China
A. The Southern and Northern Dynasties
B. The rise of Buddhism
C. Cultural interchange and Sinicization in the North

IV. Sui-Tang Reunification
A. China regain control in Inner Asia
B. Buddhism and the state
C. Warlordism and the decline of the Tang Dynasty
D. The transitional Five Dynasties

V. Northern and Southern Song
A. The building of a civilian government
B. Trade and commercial development
C. Advancement in science and technology
D. The rise of Neo-Confucianism

VI. Non-Chinese Rule over China
A. Unending struggles between Song and tribal powers
B. Liao, Jin and Sinicization in the North
C. China under Mongol rule

VII. Inward Development of the Ming Dynasty
A. Emperor Hungwu and the government
B. Disconnection of Ming from the World
C. Fiscal problems and the decline of the dynasty

VIII. The Manchu Conquest and the Heyday of the Qing
A. Institutional adaptation
B. Qing control of Chinese intellectuals
C. Growth of population in an underdeveloped society

IX. The Opening of China and the End of the Qing Dynasty
A. Opium War and its Impact
B. Unending social unrest
C. Self-Strengthening and its failure
D. Reform and revolution

X. The Republic of China
A. Struggle for a modern society
B. War with Japan
C. The civil war

XI. The People’s Republic of China
A. The reordering of Chinese society
B. Anti-Rightist Campaign and the Great Leap Forward
C. The Cultural Revolution

XII. China after Mao
A. Reforms of Deng Xiaoping
B. Democracy Movement and Tiananmen Incident
C. China Takes Off

Teaching Method: This course is partly as lectures and partly as seminars discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:
1. Written essays and book reviews.
2. Examination

Assessment: Continuous assessment 70%
Examination 30%

Required/Essential Readings:

Recommended/Supplementary Readings:
中國社會科學院歷史研究所：《中國史研究》, 1979-2008。
王夫之：《讀通鑑論》（北京：中華書局，1994 年）。
司馬光：《資治通鑑》（北京：中華書局，1956 年）。
司馬遷等：《二十四史》（北京：中華書局，1959-1974 年）。
余英時：《史學與傳統》（台北：時報文化出版公司，1982 年）。
李治亭：《清史》（上海：上海人民出版社，2002 年）。
林劍鳴：《秦漢史》（上海：上海人民出版社，2003 年）。
許倬雲：《歷史分光鏡》（上海：上海文藝出版社，1998 年）。
陳振：《宋史》（上海：上海人民出版社，2003 年）。
陳寅恪：《唐代政治史述論稿》（香港：中華書局，1974 年）。
黃仁宇：《中華大歷史》（臺北：聯經出版事業公司，1993 年）。
黃淑娉等：《中國歷史史話》（北京：中華書局，1992 年）。
楊寬：《西周史》（臺北：臺灣商務印書館，1999 年）。
趙翼：《廿二史劄記》（北京：中華書局，1966 年）。
蕭啟慶：《元朝史新論》（臺北：允晨文化出版公司，1999 年）。
錢穆：《國史大綱》（臺北：聯經出版事業公司，1994年）。
饒宗頤：《中國史學上之正統論》（香港：龍門書店，1977年）。
顧炎武：《原抄本日知錄》（臺北：文史哲出版社，1979年）。
顧颉剛：《古史辨》（上海：上海古籍出版社，1982年）。


Chan, Hok-lam, China and the Mongols: History and Legend under the Yuan and Ming, Aldershot; Brookfield, Vt.: Ashgate, 1999.


* Optional items