

Macao Polytechnic Institute

School of Languages and Translation

Bachelor of Arts in International Chinese Language and Education (Applicable to non-native speakers of Chinese)

Module Outline

Academic Year 2021 / 2022 Semester 1

Learning Module	Chinese History I	Class Code	HIST1107-111		
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil				
Medium of Instruction	Chinese / English			Credit	3
Lecture Hours	25 hrs	Lab/Practice Hours	20 hrs	Total Hours	45 hrs
Instructor	Dr. Kong Hao, Associate Professor		E-mail	johnkong@ipm.edu.mo	
Office	Room B104, Chi Un Building, Main Campus		Telephone	8599-6380	

Description

This course begins a two-part sequence offering a general history of China from the earliest records of Chinese civilization to present. The course is introductory, has no prerequisites, and assumes no prior knowledge of China or its language. The organization of the course is basically chronological, but within that framework we will be approaching China from a wide range of viewpoints, taking up political, economic, social, religious, philosophical, and artistic developments. In this fall semester, we will cover the formation of China's social, political, and intellectual culture and its development through various dynastic regimes, up through the height of the Ch'ing [Qing] Dynasty in the late 18th century.

Learning Outcomes

The course has two basic goals: (1) to present a basic introduction to the traditions and legacies of the history and culture of China; and (2) to use the specific study of China as a means for developing more general skills in the discipline of historical analysis. By attending this course,

students are also expected to identify the main characteristics of traditional Chinese Culture, to appraise traditional Chinese culture and to reflect on the role of Chinese culture in the contemporary world.

Content

Theory (25 hours)

Topic 1 Course introduction; An overview of Chinese history (2hours)

Subtopic 1. China's geography.

Question for discussion: How does geography shape Chinese civilization?

Subtopic 2. The earliest human beings in China

Peking Man and Yuanmou Man; the Upper Cave Man

The Banpo Culture, the Dawenkou Culture, the Hemudu Culture

Subtopic 3. Myths: Pangu created the world; Three August Ones and Five Emperors

Question for discussion: Why do the Chinese people call themselves the "descendants of Yandi and Huangdi"?

Topic 2. The Earliest Chinese society: the Xia and Shang dynasties(2hours)

Question for discussion: Why the establishment of the Xia Dynasty marked a sharp change in the political system and social structure?

Subtopic 1. The Abdication System; the Hereditary System

Subtopic 2. Life of the Xia People, Erlitou, alleged capital city of Xia

Subtopic 3. Shang Dynasty: development of technology, bronze metallurgy; oracle bone script; calender;

Topic 3 The Zhou Dynasty(2hours)

Subtopic 1. The Spring and Autumn Period

Subtopic 2. The Warring States

Subtopic 3. Confucianism, Legalism, and Taoism

Question for discussion: What are Confucius's contribution to Chinese culture?

Topic 4 Creating a bureaucratic empire: the Qin and Han Dynasties (2hours)

Questions for discussion: How does the short-lived Qin Dynasty influence the development of Chinese history? Why is the Han Dynasty called China's first golden age?

Topic 5 Collapse of the Han and disunion without disintegration: the Three Kingdom Period, the Six Dynasties (2hours)

Topic 6 Mid-Term Quiz / Presentation Topic due (2hours)

Topic 7 The Sui/Tang reunification (2hours)

Questions for discussion: Why does the Tang Dynasty mark the zenith of the Chinese empire?

Topic 8 The Five Dynasties and the founding of the Song (2hours)

Questions for discussion: Give your own evaluation of the Song Dynasty.

Topic 9 China in a larger empire: the Yuan/Mongol period (2hours)

Questions for discussion: Were the Mongols heroes or villains?

Topic 10 The Ming Dynasty(2hours)

Questions for discussion: Were the Ming an aborted global empire?

Topic 11 Formation of the Manchu empire: the Qing Dynasty (2hours)

Questions for discussion: Why is the early and middle Qing called another golden age of China?

Topic 12 China in the mid-Qing: tottering at the heights (3hours)

Question for discussion: Explain the reasons for Qing's decline.

Practice (20 hours)

Seminars and in-class discussion: 14 hours

In-class self-assessment quizzes: 3 hours

Student presentation (group work): 3 hours.

Teaching Methods

Learning activities include mainly lectures, and also film shows, in-class group discussions and exams.

Attendance

Attendance requirements are governed by the “Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of Macao Polytechnic Institute”. Students must attend at least 70% of their classes. Those who do not meet the attendance requirements for the course will not be permitted to sit the final and re-sit examination and shall be awarded an ‘F’ grade.

Assessment

The assessment of this course is graded according to the percentage, with 100 being the full score and 50 the passing score.

	Item	Description	Percentage
1.	Class Participation	Participation in classroom activities and completion of assignments.	15%
2.	Presentation	Group work presentation on a self-chosen topic, to be held during the last week of class of the semester.	25%
3.	Mid-term Quiz	Open-book test to be held in class, in the middle of the semester.	20%
4	Final Examination	A 3-hour on-the-spot written examination during the examination week.	40%

Total : 100%

Cheating Warning: Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. A zero mark will normally be given to that piece of work if a student copies someone else’s work or lets someone copy his/her own work.

Teaching Material

Textbook

Common Knowledge about Chinese History (Higher Education Publishing House,2007) ISBN: 9787040207170 (PDF version available)

References

1. Ebrey, Patricia B., ed. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge University Press, 1996)
2. *The Britannica Guide to Modern China* (Encyclopedia Britannica Inc.1988)
3. Various videos on Chinese history and culture at <https://www.youtube.com/>