Spring 2015                  Classical China

Richard Shek                      2022 Mendocino Hall
Phone: 278-5331                  Office Hours: TR 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Area:   C2

Department: Humanities and Religious Studies  Course Number: 172

Course Title: The Classical Culture of China

Course Description:
An introduction to classical Chinese culture through a survey of her philosophy, religion, art, and institutions. It highlights the uniqueness of Chinese culture as well as the common concerns it shares with other high cultures. Materials covered will provide background for the understanding of modern and contemporary China. 3 units.

Learning Objectives:

• To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of the human community
• To enhance an understanding of and appreciation for Chinese cultural heritage in the humanities
• To identify the contributions and perspectives of women and religious groups in the development of Chinese and Japanese cultures
• To nurture the skills of critical reading and analytical writing

Assignments:
3 quizzes
1 mid-term
1 paper

Texts:
Franz Michael, China through the Ages
Paul Ropp, ed., Heritage of China
Shen Fu, Six Records of a Floating Life

Grading System:
Quizzes 30%
Mid-term 30%
Paper 40%

Grade Assignments:
>85   A  80-84   A-
77-79  B+  74-76  B  70-73  B-
67-69  C+  64-66  C  60-63  C-
57-59  D+  54-56  D  50-53  D-
<50    F
**Nature of the Course**

An upper-division offering on Chinese humanities, this course demands rigor and commitment. It emphasizes the need for attentive reading of assigned materials, active participation in class discussions, dedicated mastery of an unfamiliar vocabulary, and critical, analytical writing of papers. The mere attendance of classes, taking of quizzes, and submission of papers will not guarantee a good grade.

**Classroom Etiquette**

There shall be no food consumption in the classroom, nor shall there be any cell phone use or text messaging. Keep late arrivals to a minimum. There shall be no bathroom break during written tests. Keep discussions and expression of views courteous.

**Complete Assignments**

All assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. Late or missing assignments will affect the student’s grade.

**Understand When You May Drop This Course**

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider withdrawing from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for dropping a class. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.

**Incomplete Policy**

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade if most of the course requirements have been performed. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within the next academic semester.

**Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start.

SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.
Commitment to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

Sac State’s Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.”

Read more about Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Definitions

At Sac State, “cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At Sac State, “plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person’s contribution.”

Source: Sacramento State University Library

Consistent with Sacramento State’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student’s work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a ‘similarity score’. The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student’s work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers to Turnitin assignments without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

No consideration will be given to what grade you need or what grade you think you deserve. All unexcused missed exams and papers will automatically be assigned an F grade, as will all plagiarized work.
Course Outline: Subject to change when necessary

1/29  General Introduction: When China became Chinese (Mi: 1-17; Ropp: 15-54)
2/5    Shang-Chou, Ch'in-Han (Mi: 18-89)
2/12   Period of Disunion; Sui-T'ang (Mi: 102-118)
2/19   Sung-Yuan; Ming-Ch'ing (Mi: 119-190)
2/26   China in the Modern Age (Mi: 191-244)
3/5    Ancient Chinese Religious and Philosophical Assumptions
3/12   The Confucian Tradition (Ropp: 112-137)
3/19   Mid-term
3/26   SPRING RECESS
4/2    The Taoist Tradition (Ropp: 138-145; 149-150; 155-156)
4/9    Other Ancient Schools of Thought
4/16   The Buddhist Tradition (Mi: 90-101; Ropp: 145-148; 150-155; 156-163)
4/23   Chinese Scientific, Medical, and Technological Achievements (Ropp: 164-196)
4/30   Chinese State and Society (Ropp: 55-85; 86-111; 197-220)
5/7    Chinese Aesthetics and Literature (Ropp: 263-308) (Paper due)
5/14   Discussion of Six Records of a Floating Life