The History of Chinese Strategic Thought
University of Calgary
Winter 2017
Monday 3:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Instructor: David Curtis Wright
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Email: wrightd@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 616
Office hours: MWF 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon; other hours by appointment. Please respect these office hours.

Course description

This is a course in the history of strategic thought and warfare in premodern and modern China. We will be reading both primary historical documents (in translation, of course) and modern scholarship. Roughly the first half of the course concentrates on strategic thought and warfare in premodern (ancient and imperial) China, while the remaining half considers modern (mostly twentieth-century) Chinese military history. The course will help students think about which aspects of China's military thought and deployments today are new and innovative and which are based on Chinese tradition. The purpose of the course is not so much to spoon-feed answers to students as it is to get them to think in depth about this question. The central question of the class is this: For Chinese military strategy and tactics, what connections, if any, are there between antiquity and modernity? In other words, do antiquity and modernity dance? are antiquity and modernity so far removed from each other in time and concept that they have no real connections? are there some ways in which antiquity and modernity are connected and some in which they are not?

Required reading

The following books are required reading for this course. I realise, of course, that they are expensive. My requirement is not necessarily that you buy them, but only that you read them. All of these volumes will be on reserve in the library.


Lyle J. GOLDSTEIN, Meeting China Halfway: How to Defuse the Emerging US – China Rivalry

Course requirements

Each student will write weekly quizzes on assigned readings, write a term paper, make class presentations, and participate in class discussions. Attendance is also important.

The reading quizzes will be the first order of business at each class and will last for approximately 20 to 25 minutes. The quizzes will consist of around three or four short essay questions, and you will select and write around two paragraphs on it. The purpose of these quizzes is not to trip students up or put them on edge, but to hold them accountable for the assigned readings and make sure that they are prepared for class discussions. Because everyone can have a bad day or week, the lowest of the eleven quiz scores will be dropped. I will allow one make-up quiz, with no questions asked, no later than two weeks (fourteen calendar days) after its scheduled time. (Please see me about arrangements for a time and place for your make-up quiz.) I will allow one additional make-up quiz in extraordinary circumstances.

The term paper, due 27 March 2017 in class, will be twelve to fifteen pages (12 point print, double spaced, one-inch margins) in length and will be on a topic of the student's choosing. For this paper you are to use at least five sources, only two of which may be from the books used in this course. The remaining two sources must not be exclusively Internet sources; half of all remaining sources must be from scholarly books or periodicals. The term paper is to have essay structure. (I am assuming that by this point in your undergraduate education you know what an essay is and how to write and structure one.) If you would like, you may discuss your term paper topic with me during office hours.
The final examination, to be held during the last hour of the last day of class (10 April 2017), will be comprehensive and will be drawn from assigned readings, material covered in class, and class discussions.

Each student will give one oral presentation to the class that will consist of two parts: a relevant topic that interests him/her and a book report on an additional book (i.e., not one of the assigned books) or very substantial website (at least 200 pages or 70,000 words) on a topic of interest to him or her. Students should schedule presentation times at least two weeks in advance; this may be done briefly during class time or with me on an individual basis. Students will be marked on the quality and clarity of their presentations. For the presentation, each student should prepare two paper documents to be handed out to each member of the class and the instructor: a one-page outline of their topic presentation and a one-page review of the additional book on which they are reporting. The latter document should sum up the book's main points, contributions, and shortcomings. All students will be accountable for the content of these presentations in the final examination. Please note that the time length of these presentations will be determined by the number of students enrolled in the course.

Class participation is important in a colloquium course. Speak up once in a while, ask questions, and comment. Do the assigned reading and come to class prepared to talk about it.

Final mark

Reading quizzes (2 x 10; lowest score dropped)  20  
Term paper                                50  
Presentation                              15  
Class participation                      15  

TOTAL                                     100

Attendance

This course is run as a seminar, so attendance and discussion are both important. I will take roll at the beginning of each course meeting. Everyone can have a bad day or week, so I will allow one unexcused absence with no questions asked. In addition, I will allow one excused absence, if absolutely necessary, for urgent and valid reasons. Attendance is, of course, a necessary prerequisite for participation in this class, and failure to attend will inevitably lead to lower participation grades.
SCHEDULE

N.B. *These dates and topics are tentative and subject to change as course needs dictate.*

JANUARY

9  Introduction to class; lectures

16  Quiz: *Confucius, Mencius, Han Fei-tzu / Han Feizi* (all)
    Lectures; class discussion
    Student presentations

23  Quiz: Graff / *A Military History of China*
    Class discussion
    Student presentations

30  Quiz: Sawyer / *Seven Military Classics*, pages 1-186 and notes.
    Class discussion
    Student presentations

FEBRUARY

6    Quiz: Sawyer / *Seven Military Classics*, pages 191-360 and notes.
    Class discussion
    Student presentations

13   Quiz: Johnston / *Cultural Realism*, pages ix-xiii, 1-154
    Class discussion
    Student presentations

20   **Midterm break; no class meeting**

27   Quiz: Johnston / *Cultural Realism*, pages 155-266
    Class discussion
    Student presentations

MARCH

6    Quiz: Wang / *Harmony and Culture*
    Class discussion
    Student presentations
13 Quiz: Yan, *Ancient Chinese Thought*
   Class discussion
   Student presentations

20 Quiz: Shambaugh / *China Goes Global*
   Class discussion
   Student presentations

27 **Term paper due**
   Quiz: Goldstein, *Meeting China Halfway*
   Class discussion
   Student presentations

APRIL

3 Quiz: Nathan and Scobel, *China’s Search for Security*
   Class discussion
   Student presentations

10 Class discussion
   **Final examination** (last hour of class)
Some possible readings


Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or websites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary’s copyright policy, see http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: course name and number, instructor, your name and your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not
bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-55</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student’s Handbook* ([http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf](http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf)), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and
wording used from another source but not acknowledged.

- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts’ associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.


**Other Useful Information:**

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

- Freedom of Information: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia](http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia)
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)
- Safewalk: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk](http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk)
- Student Union Information: [http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/)
- Graduate Student Association: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/)
- Student Ombudsman Office: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds)