

HTST 209
The History of China
MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm
ST 145
Winter Semester 2023
University of Calgary

Instructor: Prof. David Curtis Wright

Office: SS 616

Office hours: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.; other hours *on MWF only* by appointment. *Please respect these office hours.*

Course description

This course covers some major intellectual currents in Chinese history from ancient times until a few years ago. It is not a comprehensive treatment of Chinese intellectual history, much less a full survey of Chinese history. A textbook and three short works on Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism will cover varieties of Chinese thought that have influenced Chinese history.

Learning goals

By the end of this course, students will have gained a cursory appreciation of the richness and complexity of China's intellectual history, from ancient times through to the late twentieth century.

By the end of the course, students will be expected to:

- Have a basic grasp of Shang religious beliefs
- Have a basic grasp of Confucianism
- Have a basic grasp of Taoism
- Have a basic grasp of Legalism
- Have a basic grasp of Buddhism
- Be able to discuss the broad course of Chinese philosophical and religious thought as a syncretic blend of these five intellectual and religious traditions
- Identify and discuss Confucian criticisms of Buddhism
- Discuss the intellectual impact of Christianity from the seventeenth century through to the present
- Trace the development of Confucian thought from its ancient origins through the Qing dynasty (1644-1912)
- Describe the rebellion against Confucian thought
- Assess the impact and influence of Marxism in China in the twentieth century
- Discuss recent and present intellectual trends in China: What
- Wrestle with the question of how much is new about China since the 1949 revolution and how much is continuing tradition

Marking

Marks are assigned according to performance on the midterm, final, and term essay.

Midterm examination	35
Term essay	35
Final (registrar scheduled)	30
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	100

Final marks are assigned according to the following scale, with percentages converted to letter grades:

A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	56-59
D	50-55
F	1-49

The examinations will assess your knowledge of the material covered in class lectures and in assigned readings. Examination review sheets will be distributed about one week prior to each examination. Before each examination you should review your lecture notes *and* the assigned readings. Not everything in the examinations will come from the lectures; a good portion of the examination will be drawn directly from assigned readings.

The term essay is to be five to six pages in length (double spaced, twelve-point print, around 1250 to 1500 words) and should be written with an introduction (including an obvious thesis statement), a body, and a conclusion. You should use at least *three* sources in your essay, and your essay should have a bibliography of these sources at the end. Any of the three required readings may be used as sources in your term essay, but *please note that all encyclopaedia articles and textbooks, including the one for this course, are unacceptable.* **The due date for submission of the term paper is Friday 31 March 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Please submit via D2L.**

N.B.: Plagiarism on term papers and cheating on tests are serious academic offences. Just don't do it!

Textbook

David Curtis Wright, *The History of China*, Third Edition (main textbook)

Students must read the *third edition* of this book. In February 2023 it will be available for purchase at the university bookstore. It is also available online.

Required reading

Two of the following required reading items below, Confucius's *The Analects* and Laozi's *Daode Jing*, are available for free in several different versions on the web. *The Essential Lotus* is less widely available on the web, and students should plan to read this very version of the book. By February 2023 it will be available for purchase at the university bookstore.

Confucius, *The Analects*
 Laozi (Lao-tzu), *Tao Te Ching (Daode Jing)*
The Essential Lotus: Selections from the Lotus Sutra

Lecture topics and assigned readings

N.B. These assigned topics, readings, and dates are *tentative* and subject to change as class needs and requirements dictate. Outlines for the lectures are available on the course's website on D2L.

January

9	Course introduction
11	Xia and Shang dynasties; Wright 1-15
13	Zhou dynasty; Wright 17-43
16	Confucianism; Confucius (complete)
18	Confucianism (cont'd.)
20	Taoism; Laozi (complete)
23	Taoism (continued)
25	Legalism, Mohism
27	Minor schools of thought
30	Pre-imperial medical thought

February

- 1 Qin and Han dynasties; Wright 45-66
- 3 Han medical thought
- 6 Period of Division; Wright 60-66
- 8 Buddhism
- 10 Buddhism in China; Lotus Sutra (complete)
- 13 Tang dynasty
- 15 Song dynasty
- 17 The Tang-Song transition; Wright 73-87
- 20 *Midterm break; no class meeting*
- 22 *Midterm break; no class meeting*
- 24 *Midterm break; no class meeting*
- 27 **Midterm examination**
- March**
- 1 How to write a term paper
- 3 The Mongol world empire
- 6 The Yuan dynasty
- 8 Neo-Confucianism
- 10 Ming dynasty; Wright 87-91
- 13 Qing dynasty; Wright, 91-98
- 15 Qing evidential scholarship
- 17 China's encounter with Christianity: The Jesuits
- 20 China's encounter with Christianity (doctrinal)

- 22 The “Century of Humiliation,” 1839-1949; Wright, 99-128
- 24 The May Fourth era and China’s encounter with Marxism; Wright, 129-144
- 27 The May Fourth Era (cont’d.)
- 29 The first decade of the People’s Republic of China; Wright, 145-162
- 31 ***Term essay due***
The Cultural Revolution; Wright 162-179

April

- 3 The Cultural Revolution (continued)
- 5 Post-Mao China and Deng’s reforms; Wright 181-279
- 7 ***Good Friday; no class meeting***
- 10 ***April Monday; no class meeting***
- 12 Tiananmen Square: Movement and Massacre; Wright 192-207

Final examination (registrar-scheduled) time and place to be announced.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY COURSE OUTLINES

Departmental Grading System

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200. See the university grading system in the calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Please Note: Students are expected to reach the grade range to receive that letter grade (ie. to receive an A- a student will have earned an 80 or 3.7 in the course). Assume that there will be no rounding up unless a faculty member announces otherwise.

Writing

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For more information, please see the University of Calgary [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) documents, and visit the [Academic Integrity Website](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when students submit or present the ideas and/or writing of others as if they were their own or when they submit their own work to two different classes. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#) for more details, but to summarize, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- 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, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

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 Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in [the university calendar](#).

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the [Student Accommodations policy](#). Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the [Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

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 [Student Accessibility Services](#).

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human participants – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the [Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board](#) or the [Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board](#). In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required. Some courses will include assignments that involve conducting research with human participants; in these cases, the instructor will have applied for and received ethics approval for the course assignment. The instructor will discuss the ethical requirements for the assignment with the students.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other

students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of [the Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under [the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

Copyright of Educational Materials

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, 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. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites 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 consult books on reserve at the library. Please see the [University of Calgary copyright page](#).

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard.

MEDIA RECORDING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Media Recording for Study Purposes (Students)

Students who wish to audio record lectures for personal study purposes need to follow the guidelines outlined in [Section E.6 of the University Calendar](#). Unless the audio recording of lectures is part of a student accessibility requirement, permission must be sought by the course instructor to audio record lectures.

Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Recordings will be posted on D2L for student use and will normally be deleted at the end of term. Students are responsible for turning off their camera and/or microphone if they do not wish to be recorded.

Media recording for assessment of student learning

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose. The recording will be destroyed as specified by [retention rule 2000.01](#) "Examinations and Student Assignments."

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. The recording will be destroyed as specified by [retention rule 98.0011](#) “Draft Documents & Working Materials.”

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary’s sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see [the sexual and gender-based violence policy](#).

Other Useful Information

Please see the Registrar’s [Course Outline Student Support and Resources](#) page for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk
- Campus Security 220-5333

Department of History Twitter @ucalgaryhist

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