

CHN 2602B – SECTION 550
Cultural Foundations of Modern China
Winter term 2023

Class Time: Monday 15:30-17:30 PM; Wednesday 14:30-15:30PM
Huron University College H111

Instructor: Dr. Guoyuan Liu
Office: A104
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Office Hours: TBA

Course prerequisite: NONE

Course description:

China has a long history. Even in the 21st century, the lifestyle, behavior and mentality of the Chinese people are guided, explicitly or implicitly, by a cultural heritage. It is impossible to understand China without knowledge of this heritage. This course offers an overview of key elements that have shaped and reshaped the cultural landscape of today's China. We will examine history, philosophy, literature, and art, with special attention to ideological implications of these cultural activities. Readings in this course include selections from classics representing the most influential ideas and values in Chinese society, as well as literary texts that reflect the most popular ideas. We will also view important Chinese paintings, sculpture and architecture, and listen to important works of Chinese music. Taught in English.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to

1. gain an overview of China's cultural landscape;
2. develop a basic understanding of issues and themes that have shaped modern Chinese culture;
3. acquire skills of analysis and interpretation in Chinese studies through textual as well as visual sources.

Textbooks and required resources:

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, ed. *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. Second Edition. New York: The Free Press, 1993. (ISBN-10: 002908752X)

Class Methods: Lecture and in-class discussion

Method of evaluation and assessment:

Attendance	10%
Participation/Discussion	10%
Reading quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	45%

Schedule of classes:

Mon Jan 9 Introduction

Reading: course outline

Wed Jan 11 Chinese culture and Chinese society

No reading

Midterm to be explained

Mon Jan 16 An understanding of humanity

Reading: Selections from *Confucius's Analects* (Ebrey 18-22)

Wed Jan 18 The Chinese notion of morality (and why it's important today)

Reading: Selections from the *Book of Mencius*, the *Book of Xunzi* (Ebrey 22-26)

Mon Jan 23 The first debate: order or freedom?

Reading: Selections from *the Book of Laozi* (Ebrey 27-29)

Wed Jan 25 The Chinese notion of happiness (and why it's important today)

Reading: Selections from *the Book of Zhuangzi* (Ebrey 29-31)

Mon Jan 30 The making of a centralized empire

Readings: Selections from the *Book of Hanfeizi* (Ebrey 33-37)

Selections from the Qin Law (Ebrey 51-54)

Wed Feb 1 The making of a unified identity

Readings: Selections from *Luxuriant Dew of the Spring and Autumn Annals* (Ebrey 57-58)

Mon Feb 6 Co-existence of the three doctrines

Reading: "Wei Shou's Summary of Buddhism"; "Life of Seng Du" (Ebrey 97-100)

Wed Feb 8 Chan Buddhism and Chinese culture

Reading: Selections from *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch* (available on OWL)

The Heart Sutra (available on OWL)

Mon Feb 13 Midterm Exam (25%)

15:30-17:10 (100 min) W108

Wed Feb 15 The taste of the Gentry class (and why it's important today)

Readings: "A Scholar-Painter's Diary" (Ebrey 199-201)

"A Schedule for Learning" (Ebrey 195-98)

Feb 18-26 Spring Reading Week

No class meeting.

Mon Feb 27 Cultural fusion and development of the high imperial age

Readings: "The Dancing Horse of Xuanzong's Court" (Ebrey 123-24)

Selected Tang poetry (available on OWL)

Wed Mar 1 The importance of an exam

Readings: "The Examination System" (Ebrey 128-31)

Zhu Xi's Conversations with His Disciples (Ebrey 172-77)

Mar 9 Huron China Day Event

China Day event: Mar 9 14:30-16:30, Kingsmill room

No class meeting this week.

Instead, all students of CHN2602 are required to attend the event.

There will be no penalty in case of class conflicts.

Mon Mar 13 Understanding Chinese architecture

Images to be shown in the lecture

Final exam to be explained

Wed Mar 15 Examples of traditional and modern Chinese architecture

Images to be shown in the lecture

Mon Mar 20 Understanding Chinese painting and music

Reading: from Zhang Yanyua: *Record of Famous Paintings in Successive Dynasties*
from Sima Qian: "Treatise of Music"

Wed Mar 22 Examples of Chinese painting and music

Images to be shown in the lecture

Mon Mar 27 Understanding Chinese novels

Readings: Selections from *Outlaws of the Marsh* (Ebrey 262-237)

Wed Mar 29 Conflicts and Transformations in the Modern Age

Readings: "My Old Home" (Ebrey 354-59)

Mon Apr 3 Development of modern Chinese culture

Images to be shown in the lecture

Wed Apr 5 Cultural Landscapes of Today's China

Reading: "Is Chinese culture modern?" from Rana Mitter: *Modern China: A Very Short Introduction* pp 117-130 (available on OWL)

Mon Apr 10 Course conclusion

OWL

Students must consult OWL for this course regularly. All course materials and announcements will be conveyed by this and no other means.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, including laptops, tablet computers, smart phones, etc., can be used in the classroom for pedagogical/academic purposes only (such as note taking, reading, research, etc.), and for no other purposes (such as gaming, social networking, etc.).

Course work:

Please be reminded that your final grade reflects your performance in this course. As the term begins, your grade is zero and will increase with the accumulation of your course work. Please read the following descriptions carefully and decide how to earn your grade.

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is calculated by hours attended divided by total lecture hours. An attendance sheet will be passed around during the lecture. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before the end of the lecture. The attendance sheet cannot be signed on a different day. Signing the attendance sheet in place of anyone but oneself is considered cheating and will be penalized.

Participation / Discussion (10%)

The participation/discussion grade reflects your level of engagement in class, the quality of your comments and your contribution to class discussion. When you participate in class discussion, you should not only demonstrate your familiarity with the subject discussed, but also your critical consideration of it. Being prepared before coming to class is a major way to improve your

participation. You are encouraged to ask questions. Good questions make great contribution to class discussion.

To earn good participation grade, you need to be active in class discussion and well prepared before class.

Please see the rubrics for assessing participation on the course website.

Reading quizzes (10%)

Reading is the major part of your course work. To help you keep up with the reading schedule, there will be 5 pop quizzes. Each quiz (2%) is a question about the day's reading that you will have no difficulty answering if you have finished the reading. **There will be no make-up for missed reading quizzes.**

To earn good grades from the reading quizzes, you need to study the assigned reading before class.

Midterm Exam (25%) and Final Exam (45%)

Details will be explained in lecture and will be posted on the course website on OWL.

If the test or exam is missed for a legitimate reason, appropriate documentation must be submitted to arrange a makeup (See relative section in the appendix). It is the student's responsibility to attend the exam at the proper time. Such excuses as mistaking or forgetting the date of the test or exam will not be accepted.

In the exams you are expected to show your knowledge and analytic skills gained in the first half of the term. To succeed in the exam, you need to be attentive and take notes in the lectures and be well prepared before the exam.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education

Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community

Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -
[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)