The Qin/Han Unification of China

Course description

In geography and cultural advances, the Qin and Han dynasties surpassed their predecessors, and together they number among the world’s greatest empires. This course examines their heritage through a selection of primary texts including the Confucian Analects, the enigmatic Dao de Jing, the cosmological Book of Changes, and the historical narrative tradition of Sima Qian’s Shi Ji. It samples cultural expression ranging from the poetic discourse of rhapsodies and pentasyllabic verse to the religious endeavors manifested in funerary artifacts. Alongside textual studies, this course explores the Han’s physical remains, including the ruins of its capitals, the Wu Liang shrine, and its important tombs. The Qin/Han portrays itself as a territorial, political, and cultural unifier, and it sets the benchmark against which all later dynasties must measure themselves.

Course requirements

1. Reading and pondering all assigned readings before conferences. This will include regularly writing reading responses, discussion questions, poetic analyses, visual exploratories, and the like.

2. Attending all conferences, including regular, active and substantive conference participation.

3. Attending all lectures (which also means keeping 10:00-10:50 a.m. open on Wednesdays and Fridays for additional lectures or activities). All lectures meet in Biology 19, 10:00-10:50.

4. Three short (5-7 pages) analytical papers; deadlines & format will be set by conference leaders.

5. One group project; parameters to be established by individual conference leaders.

Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Brashier</td>
<td>Conference leader</td>
<td>ETC 203</td>
<td>7377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexei Ditter</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>E 114</td>
<td>7348</td>
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<td>Jing Jiang</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>E 119</td>
<td>7376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiffany Lee</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>Lib 323</td>
<td>7824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lara Netting</td>
<td>Conference leader</td>
<td>VOL 124</td>
<td>4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyong Rhew</td>
<td>Conference leader</td>
<td>E 122</td>
<td>7392</td>
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Required texts


**Reading schedule**

**Note:** All starred (*) items are supplementary readings.

**Unit One: Early Empire and its Worlds**

**Week 1 (22 January - 26): Temporal and spatial paradigms**

**Monday, 22 January, 10-10:50am Lecture on Temporal frameworks (Hyong Rhew)**

**Wednesday, 24 January, 10-10:50am Lecture on Spatial groundings (Lara Netting)**

**Readings:**


assigned textbooks) includes only part of this chapter; be sure that you read this complete version.


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Week 2 (29 January - 2 February): The Lishan Mausoleum

Monday, 29 January lecture: Tiffany Lee

Image gallery:

"The conservation & restoration of the Terracotta Army." Url:
http://academic.reed.edu/chinese/chin-hum/terracotta/index.html

Readings:


Unit Two: Normative Ideas: Classical Texts

Week 3 (5 – 9 February): The Analects and the Classicist tradition

Monday, 5 February lecture: Hyong Rhew

**Readings:**


Week 4 (12 – 16 February): The Daodejing

Monday, 12 February lecture: Jing Jiang

**Readings:**


Week 5 (19 – 23 February): The Xunzi and Hanfeizi

Monday, 19 February lecture: Ken Brashier

Readings:


Week 6 (26 February – 2 March): Epistemology

Monday, 26 February, Ken Brashier


*Unit Three: The World in Words*

Week 7 (5-9 March): The *Classic of poetry* and Han critical frameworks

Monday, 5 March: Jing Jiang

Readings:


**Spring Break**
Week 8 (19-23 March): Sima Qian’s historiography

Monday, 19 March Lecture: Alexei Ditter

Readings:


Week 9 (26 – 30 March): *Chuci* and *fu*-poetry

Monday, 26 March: Alexei Ditter

29 March: Museum visit (To be confirmed)

Readings:

**Reserves** PL3277 E3 C47 1962, 10 copies

**Reserves** PL3277 E3 C47 1962, 10 copies


Unit Four: Cosmology and Change

Week 10 (2-6 April): Mawangdui and Han Religion

Monday, 2 April Lecture: Prof. Haicheng Wang, University of Washington

Friday, 6 April, First lecture on Yijing: Hyong Rhew

Image Gallery:


Readings:


Week 11 (9-13 April): The *Yijing*

Monday, 9 April Lecture: Hyong Rhew

**Readings:**

Rhew, Hyong. "Seeking divine wisdom through *Yijing* divination." Video. **Moodle**


The following additional thirteen hexagrams in *The Classic of changes: A new translation of the I Ching as interpreted by Wang Bi*. **Text:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hexagram</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Page Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 (Zhun [Birth throes])</td>
<td>p. 152-158</td>
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<td>11 (Tai [Peace])</td>
<td>pp. 205-211</td>
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<td>20 (Guan [Viewing])</td>
<td>pp. 260-265</td>
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<td>23 (Bo [Peeling])</td>
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<td>27 (Yi [Nourishment])</td>
<td>pp. 305-311</td>
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<td>29 (Xikan [The constant sink hole])</td>
<td>pp. 317-323</td>
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<td>31 (Xian [Reciprocity])</td>
<td>pp. 329-334</td>
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<td>32 (Heng [Perseverance])</td>
<td>pp. 335-340</td>
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<td>36 (Mingyi [Suppression of the light])</td>
<td>pp. 357-362</td>
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<td>38 (Kui [Contrariety])</td>
<td>368-374</td>
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<td>54 (Guimei [Marrying maid])</td>
<td>480-487</td>
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<td>60 (Jie [Control])</td>
<td>518-522</td>
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<td>63 (Jiji [Ferrying complete])</td>
<td>538-544</td>
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<td>64 (Weiji [Ferrying incomplete])</td>
<td>545-551</td>
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**Week 12 (16-20 April): Han Cosmology**

16 April Lecture: Ken Brashier

**Readings:**


Unit Five: Self, Family and Society

Week 13 (23 – 27 April 27): Gendered Virtues

Monday, April 23 lecture: Lara Netting

Readings:


