

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 objectives

Through regular and appropriate preparation for and engagement in the lectures and discussion sessions of this course students will: 1) develop a solid understanding of early imperial Chinese civilization through intensive engagement with artifacts, texts, and visual materials; 2) cultivate a historically specific and culturally informed vocabulary and the ability to apply it thoughtfully and productively in conference discussions on the various topics we study; and 3) enhance their analytical and writing skills through various class assignments.

Course requirements

1. Read / view and ponder all assigned readings before conferences begin. To enhance preparation for discussion meetings, this will include regularly submission of reading responses, discussion questions, poetic analyses, visual exploratories, critical summaries, reading notes, and the like, to be determined by individual conference instructors.
2. Attend all conferences and participate regularly, actively and substantively.
3. Attend all weekly lectures, which occur each Monday, 10:00-10:50am, in Library 41. Attendance at all guest and supplemental lectures is also required; this semester there will be one additional lecture on Wednesday, 18 March, 10:00-1050am.
4. Write and submit three short (5-7 pages) analytical papers; deadlines & format will be set by individual conference leaders.

Faculty

Alexei Ditter	Lecturer	E 114	x 7348
Douglas Fix	Conference leader & Chair	E 423	x 7422
Jing Jiang	Lecturer	E 428	x 7376

Hyong Rhew	Lecturer	E 112	x 7392
Michelle Wang	Conference leader	Lib 323	x 7730

Required texts available in the Bookstore

Lewis, Mark E. *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007.

Confucius. *Confucius Analects: With selections from traditional commentaries*. Edward Slingerland, trans. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003.

Laozi. *Thus spoke Laozi: A new translation with commentaries of Daodejing*. Charles Wu, trans. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2016.

Xunzi. *Xunzi: Basic writings*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

The Classic of changes: A new translation of the I Ching as interpreted by Wang Bi. Richard Lynn, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Liu, An. *The essential Huainanzi*. John Major, et al., trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012.

Liu, Xiang. *Exemplary women of early China*. Anne Bahnke Kinney, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

Reading schedule

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

Week 1 (27-31 January): Temporal and spatial paradigms

Monday, 27 January 10-10:50am Lecture: Douglas Fix

Readings:

Lewis, Mark E. "Introduction," and "The geography of empire." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. 1-29. **Text**

"Han views of the universal order." *Sources of Chinese tradition: From earliest times to 1600*. Second edition. Wm. Theodore de Bary & Irene Bloom, comps. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. Vol 1, pp. 346-352. **Moodle and Reserves DS721 D37 1999 v.1**

"She bore the folk." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 11-14. **Course moodle & Reserves PL2658 E1 A814 1996**

Liu, An (179-122 B.C.E.). "Four: Terrestrial forms." *The Huainanzi: A guide to the theory and practice of government in early Han China*. John Major, et al., eds. & trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010. Pp. 149-171. **Course moodle and Reserves:** BL1900 H822 E5 2010 Note: The abridged *Huainanzi* (one of the assigned textbooks) includes only part of this chapter; be sure that you read this complete version.

Lewis, Mark E. "The outer world." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2007. Pp. 128-154. **Text**

Ssu-ma, Ch'ien [Sima Qian] (?145-86? BCE). "The Hsiung-nu, Memoir 50." Enno Giele, trans. *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol. 9, The memoirs of Han China, Part II*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011. Pp. 237-310. **Ebook & Reserves** DS741.3 S6813 1994 v.9:2

Di Cosmo, Nicola. "Character of the Xiongnu empire." *Xiongnu archaeology: Multidisciplinary perspectives of the first steppe empire in Inner Asia*. Ursula Brosseder and Bryan Miller, eds. Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 2011. Pp. 45-48. **Course moodle**

* "*Sheng min, Shi jing* (Classic of poetry), Mao 245: 'Birth of the people'." *Ways with words: Writing about reading texts from early China*. Pauline Yu, et al., eds. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. Pp. 11-40, 261. **Reserves** Z1003.5 C45 W39 2000

Week 2 (3-7 February): The Lishan Mausoleum

Monday, 3 February lecture: Michelle Wang

Thursday, 6 February, 5:30pm, Portland Art Museum Visit: Meet at Portland Art Museum

Image gallery:

"The conservation & restoration of the Terracotta Army." Url:
<https://www.reed.edu/chinese/chin-hum/terracotta/index.html>

Readings:

Sima, Qian. "The basic annals of the First Emperor of Qin." *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Renditions-Columbia University Press, 1993. Pp. 35-83. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 S67813 1993

Rawson, Jessica. "The power of images: The model universe of the First Emperor and its legacy." *Historical Research* 75 (May 2002): 123-154. **Course moodle**

Kesner, Ladislav. "Likeness of no one: (Re)presenting the First Emperor's army." *Art Bulletin* 77, I (Mar 1995): 115-132. **Online** via Library E-Journals

Ledderose, Lothar. "A magic army for the emperor." *Ten thousand things: Module and mass production in Chinese art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. Pp. 51-73. **Course moodle & Reserves** N7340 L38 2000

Lewis, Mark E. "A state organized for war," and "The paradoxes of empire." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2007. Pp. 30-74. **Text**

* *The First Emperor: China's terracotta army*. Jane Portal, ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007. **Reserves** DS747.9 Q254 F57 2007

* *China's terracotta warriors: The First Emperor's legacy*. Liu Yang, et al., eds. Minneapolis: Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2012. **Reserves** DS747.9 C47 L58 2012

Week 3 (10-14 February): The *Analects* and the Classicist tradition

Monday, 10 February, lecture: Hyong Rhew

Readings:

Confucius. *Analects: With selections from traditional commentaries*. Edward Slingerland, trans. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003. **Text**

Szuma, Chien [SIMA Qian]. "Confucius" [*Shi ji* 47]. *Selections from Records of the Historian*. Yang Hsien-yi and Gladys Yang, trans. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1979. Pp. 1-27. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS735 A2 S63213 1979

The Chinese classic of family reverence (Xiaojing). Henry Rosemont and Roger Ames, trans. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009. Pp. 105-118. **Course moodle & Reserves** BJ117 R67 2009

Week 4 (17-21 February): The *Classic of poetry* and Han critical frameworks

Monday, 17 February Lecturer: Jing Jiang

Readings:

Lewis, Mark E. "Literature." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2007. Pp. 206-226. **Text**

Owen, Stephen. "The great preface." *Readings in Chinese literary thought*. Stephen Owen, trans. Cambridge, Mass.: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1992. Pp. 37-56. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2262.2 R4 1992

"The *Classic of poetry: Beginnings.*" *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 10-29. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658.E1 A814 1996

"The *Classic of poetry: 'Airs'.*" *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 30-57. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658.E1 A814 1996

"Using the poems and early interpretation." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 58-64. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658.E1 A814 1996

"*Yue-fu.*" *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 227-237. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658.E1 A814 1996

"Nineteen old poems." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 253-261. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658.E1 A814 1996

Week 5 (24-28 February): The *Daodejing*

[Monday, 24 February lecture: Jing Jiang](#)

Readings:

Laozi. *Thus spoke Laozi: A new translation with commentaries of Daodejing.* Charles Wu, trans. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2016. **Text**

"Laozi." *Readings in Han Chinese thought.* Mark Csikszentmihalyi, comp. & trans. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2006. Pp. 96–112. **Course moodle & Reserves** B126 R433 2006

Zhuangzi. "Wandering far and unfettered." Brook Ziporyn, trans. *Zhuangzi: The essential writings, with selections from traditional commentaries.* Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009. Pp. 3-8, 129-135. **Course moodle & Reserves** BL1900 C5 E5 2009

Week 6 (2-6 March): The *Xunzi* and *Hanfeizi*

[Monday, 2 March lecture: Douglas Fix](#)

Readings:

Xunzi. "The regulations of a king," "Debating military affairs," "A discussion of Heaven," "A discussion of rites," "A discussion of music," and "Man's nature is

evil." *Xunzi: Basic writings*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003. **Text**

"Han Feizi." *Readings in classical Chinese philosophy*. Philip Ivanhoe & Bryan Van Norden, eds. Second edition. New York: Indianapolis: Hackett, 2005. Pp. 311-361. **Course moodle & Reserves** B126 R43 2005

Sima Qian. "Shi ji 99: The Biographies of Liu Jing and Shusun Tong." *Records of the Grand Historian: Han dynasty I*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Renditions-Columbia University Press, 1993, c1961. Pp. 285-298. **Ebook & Reserves** DS741.3 S68213 1993

Lewis, Mark. "Law." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2007. **Text**

"The laws of Qin" (selective compilation). R. Eno, trans. Url: <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2022/23469/4.2-Laws-2010.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Loewe, Michael. "The laws of 186 B.C.E." *China's early empires: A re-appraisal*. Michael Nylan and Michael Loewe, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Pp. 253-265. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS747.37 C475 2010

Week 7 (9-13 March): Sima Qian's historiography

Monday, 9 March Lecture: Douglas Fix

Readings:

"Lord Yin 1 (722 BCE)" [partial]. *Zuo tradition / Zuozhuan 左傳 : Commentary on the 'Spring and autumn annals*. Stephen Durrant, et al., trans. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016. Vol 1, pp. 6-13. **Course moodle & Reserves** [New Order]

"Lord Xi 15 (645 BCE)." *Zuo tradition / Zuozhuan 左傳 : Commentary on the 'Spring and autumn annals*. Stephen Durrant, et al., trans. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016. Vol 1, pp. 312-329. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2470.Z6 Z8713 2016

Sima, Qian. "Po Yi, Memoir 1." *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol 7, The memoirs of pre-Han China*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994. Vol 7, pp. 1-8. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 S6813 1994, v.7

Sima, Qian. "The assassin-retainers, Memoir 26." *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol 7, The memoirs of pre-Han China*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994. Vol 7, pp. 319-334. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 S6813 1994, v.7

- Sima, Qian. "The witty courtiers, memoir 66." *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol XI, The memoirs of Han China, Part IV*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019. Vol XI, pp. 149-195. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 .S6813 1994, v.11:4
- Sima, Qian. "Sequence of His Honor, the Grand Scribe's own [history], memoir 70." *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol XI, The memoirs of Han China, Part IV*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019. Vol XI, pp. 311-331, 359-369. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 .S6813 1994, v.11:4
- Sima, Qian. "The letter to Ren An: English translation." *The letter to Ren An & Sima Qian's legacy*. Stephen Durrant, et al., eds. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016. Pp. 22-29, 130-135. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS734.9.S8 D875 2016

Week 8 (16-20 March): Chang'an, the Emperor's capital

Monday, 16 March Lecture: Michelle Wang

Wednesday, 18 March, First Yijing Lecture: Hyong Rhew

Image gallery: <https://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/12783/lightbox>

Readings:

- Steinhardt, Nancy. "First great empire." *Chinese imperial city planning*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990. Pp. 54-71, 188-189. **Course moodle & Reserves:** NA9265 .S8 1990 (1)
- Lewis, Mark E. "Imperial cities." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2007. Pp. 75-101. **Text**
- Tang, Xiaofeng. "The evolution of imperial urban form in Western Han Chang'an." *Chang'an 26 BCE: An Augustan Age in China*. Michael Nylan and Griet Vankeerberghen, eds. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015. Pp. 55- 74. **Ebook & Reserves:** DS797.32.C433 C47 2015
- Pirazzoli-t'Serstevens, Michèle. "Urbanism." *China's early empires: A re-appraisal*. Michael Nylan and Michael Loewe, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Pp. 186-212. **Course moodle & Reserves:** DS747.37 .C475 2010
- Ban, Mengjian [BAN Gu]. "Two capitals rhapsody." *Wen xuan, or, selections of refined literature*. Xiao Tong, comp., David R. Knechtges, trans. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982. Vol 1, pp. 93-180 (odd-numbered pages only). **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658 E1 W4 1982 v. 1
- Thorp, Robert. "Architectural principles in early imperial China: Structural problems and their solutions." *Art Bulletin* 68, iii (Sept 1986): 360-378. **JSTOR**

Spring Break 21-29 March 2019

Week 9 (30 March - 3 April): The *Yijing*

[Monday, 30 March Second *Yijing* Lecture: Hyong Rhew](#)

Readings:

Hyong Rhew "Yi Jing 易經" **Course moodle**

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

Nylan, Michael. "The *Changes* [Yi 易]." *The five "Confucian" classics*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. Pp. 202-252. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2462 Z6 N95 2001

Lynn, Richard. "Introduction" and "Explaining the trigrams [*Shuo gua*]." *The Classic of Changes: A new translation of the I Ching as interpreted by Wang Bi*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. Pp. 1-23, 119-126. **Text**

"Hexagram 1, 乾 *Qian* [Pure Yang]" and "Hexagram 2 坤 *Kun* [Pure Yin]." *The Classic of Changes: A new translation of the I Ching as interpreted by Wang Bi*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. Pp. 129-151. **Text**

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

3 (Zhun [Birth throes]), pp. 152-158	32 (Heng [Perseverance]), pp. 335-340
11 (Tai [Peace]), pp. 205-211.	36 (Mingyi [Suppression of the light]), pp. 357-362
20 (Guan [Viewing]), pp. 260-265	38 (Kui [Contrariety]), 368-374
23 (Bo [Peeling]), pp. 280-285	54 (Guimei [Marrying maid]), 480-487
27 (Yi [Nourishment]), pp. 305-311	60 (Jie [Control]), 518-522
29 (Xikan [The constant sink hole]), pp. 317-323	63 (Jiji [Ferrying complete]), 538-544
31 (Xian [Reciprocity]), pp. 329-334	64 (Weiji [Ferrying incomplete]), 545-551

* Smith, Richard. "Introduction," "Genesis of the *Changes*," and "The making of a classic." *The I Ching: A biography*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. Pp. 1-74. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2464 Z7 S63 2012

* Redmond, Geoffrey, and Hon Tze-ki. *Teaching the I Ching (Book of changes)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. **Ebook & Reserves** PL2464 Z7 R43 2014

Week 10 (6-10 April): Epistemology and CosmologyMonday, 6 April Lecturer: Jesse Chapman (University of California, Berkeley)Readings:

Liu, An. *The essential Huainanzi*. John Major, et al., trans. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012). **Text**

* Ban, Gu. "The five elements." *Po hu t'ung: The comprehensive discussions in the White Tiger Hall*. Tjan Tjoe Som, trans. Leiden: Brill, 1949-1952. Vol 2, pp. 429-445.
Course moodle & Reserves PL2461 Z7 P313 1949a

Week 11 (13-17 April): Exemplary WomenMonday, 13 April lecture: Alexei DitterReadings:

Lewis, Mark E. "Kinship." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. 155-177. **Text**

Liu, Xiang. *Exemplary women of early China: The Lienü zhuan of Liu Xiang*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014. **Text**

"Women on and behind the throne: Ban Zhao." *The red brush: Writing women of imperial China*. Wilt Idema and Beata Grant, eds. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004. Pp. 17-42. **Course moodle & Reserves PL2278 I344 2004**

Raphals, Lisa. "Women as agents of virtue and destruction," and "Women as prescient counselors." *Sharing the light: Representations of women and virtue in early China*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998. Pp. 11-26, 27-59. **Course moodle & Reserves HQ1767 R36 1998**

Week 12 (20-24 April): Chuci and fu-poetryMonday, 20 April Lecture: Alexei DitterReadings:

"Leaving my troubles, 'Li sao'." Gopal Sukhu, trans. *The songs of Chu: An anthology of ancient Chinese poetry by Qu Yuan and others*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2017. Pp. 25-60. **Course moodle & Reserves PL2661 .A2 2017**

"Wandering far away, 'Yuan you'." Gopal Sukhu, trans. *The songs of Chu: An anthology of ancient Chinese poetry by Qu Yuan and others*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2017. Pp. 142-151. **Course moodle & Reserves PL2661 .A2 2017**

Sima, Qian. "Shi ji 84: The biographies of Qu Yuan and Master Jia." *Records of the Grand Historian. Han Dynasty I*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. Vol 1, pp. 435-452. **Course moodle & Reserves** DS741.3 S68213 1993 v. 1

"The encounter with the goddess." *An anthology of Chinese literature: Beginnings to 1911*. Stephen Owen, ed. & trans. New York: Norton, 1996. Pp. 189-193. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658 E1 A814 1996

Sima, Qian. "Ssu-ma Hsiang-ju: Memoir 57." *The Grand Scribe's records. Vol. 10, The memories of Han China, Part III*. William H. Nienhauser, Jr., ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016. Pp. 83-158. **Course moodle & E Reserves:** DS741.3 .S6813 1994, v. 10:3

Wang, Yanshou (124-148). "Dream fu." Pp. 242-252 in the following article: Donald Harper, "Wang Yen-shou's nightmare poem," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 47, i (June 1987): 239-283. **JSTOR**

Wang, Zhongxuan [Wang Can, 177-217]. "Rhapsody on climbing the tower." Wen xuan, or, selections of refined literature. Xiao Tong, comp. David R. Knechtges, trans. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987. Vol 2, pp. 236-242. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2658 E1 W4 1982, v.2

* Knechtges, David. "Fu poetry: An ancient-style rhapsody (gufu)." *How to read Chinese poetry: A guided anthology*. Cai Zong-qi, ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. Pp. 59-83. **Reserves** PL2308 H65 2007

Week 13 (27 April - 1 May): Mawangdui and Han Religion

[Monday, 27 April Lecture: Michelle Wang](#)

Image Gallery: <http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/9994/lightbox>

Readings:

"Summoning the soul, 'Zhao hun'." Gopal Sukhu, trans. *The songs of Chu: An anthology of ancient Chinese poetry by Qu Yuan and others*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2017. Pp.169-179. **Course moodle & Reserves** PL2661 .A2 2017

Lewis, Mark E. "Religion." *The early Chinese empires: Qin and Han*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. 178-205. **Text**

Tseng, Lillian Lan-ying. "The journeys to Heaven." *Picturing Heaven in early China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center for the Harvard-Yenching Institute, 2011. Pp. 166-205. **Course moodle & Reserves** N8217 C62 T79 2011, 1 copy

Poo, Mu-chou. "Preparation for the afterlife in ancient China." *Mortality in traditional Chinese thought*. Amy Olberding and Philip Ivanhoe, eds. Albany: SUNY Press, 2011. Pp. 13-36. **Course moodle & Reserves** B5233 D43 M67 2011, 1 copy

Wu, Hung. "On tomb figurines: The beginning of a visual tradition." *Body and face in Chinese visual culture*. Wu Hung and Katherine Tsiang, eds. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005. **Course moodle & Reserves** N7574.5 C6 B632 2005