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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexei Ditter</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>E 114</td>
<td>x 7348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Fix</td>
<td>Conference leader &amp; Chair</td>
<td>E 423</td>
<td>x 7422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jing Jiang</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>E 428</td>
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Required texts available in the Bookstore


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:


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:


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

**Monday, 10 February, lecture: Hyong Rhew**

Readings:


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

**Monday, 17 February Lecturer: Jing Jiang**

Readings:


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

**Monday, 24 February lecture: Jing Jiang**

**Readings:**


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

**Monday, 2 March lecture: Douglas Fix**

**Readings:**


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

Monday, 9 March Lecture: Douglas Fix

Readings:


**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](https://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/12783/lightbox)

**Readings:**


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


The following 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>pp. 152-158</td>
<td>32 (Heng [Perseverance]), pp. 335-340</td>
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<td>11 (Tai [Peace]), pp. 205-211.</td>
<td>36 (Mingyi [Suppression of the light]), pp. 357-362</td>
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<td>20 (Guan [Viewing]), pp. 260-265</td>
<td>38 (Kui [Contrariety]), 368-374</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 (Bo [Peeling]), pp. 280-285</td>
<td>54 (Guimei [Marrying maid]), 480-487</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 (Yi [Nourishment]), pp. 305-311</td>
<td>60 (Jie [Control]), 518-522</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 (Xikan [The constant sink hole]), pp. 317-323</td>
<td>63 (Jiji [Ferrying complete]), 538-544</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 (Xian [Reciprocity]), pp. 329-334</td>
<td>64 (Weiji [Ferrying incomplete]), 545-551</td>
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Week 10 (6-10 April): Epistemology and Cosmology

Monday, 6 April Lecturer: Jesse Chapman (University of California, Berkeley)

Readings:


Week 11 (13-17 April): Exemplary Women

Monday, 13 April lecture: Alexei Ditter

Readings:


Week 12 (20-24 April): Chuci and fu-poetry

Monday, 20 April Lecture: Alexei Ditter

Readings:


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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](http://rdc.reed.edu/workspace/9994/lightbox)

**Readings:**


