

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**SSCI 221 – Introduction to Chinese History and Culture**

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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  
MAY 2015**

**SSCI 221 - INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE HISTORY AND CULTURE**

- A. **TITLE:** Introduction to Chinese History and Culture
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SSCI 221
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, CTIVITY:**  
3 lecture hours per week

**H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the major aspects of Chinese history and culture. The first seven weeks of the semester are focused on the history of China before 1949, particularly the major Chinese dynasties together with coverage of the historical events, people as well as their significance and influence; the second seven weeks cover a variety of topics related to post-1949 China’s political structure, economic reform, population policy and educational system, etc. The knowledge that the students have learned at the “history” stage enables them to have a deeper understanding of today’s China.

**I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None

**J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

<i><u>Course Objective</u></i>	<i><u>Institutional SLO</u></i>
a. Identify and understand Chinese history and dynasties.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
b. Explain in general terms the causes of the rise and fall of the feudal Chinese Empire.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
c. Evaluate prominent historical figures and events that have had a far-reaching impact on Chinese culture.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
d. Summarize Oriental-Occidental cross-cultural understandings based on personal experiences or through literature.	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills
e. Examine Chinese culture-specific terms and images found in books, movies, and the mass media.	2. Crit. Thinking 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills

**K. TEXTS:**

1. Ebrey, Patricia B. (2006). *China: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. [Referred to as the “History Book” throughout this course.]

2. Starr, John B. (2010). *Understanding China: A Guide to China's Economy, History, and Political Culture*. (3rd ed.). NY: Hill and Wang – A division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. [Referred to as the “Culture Book” in this course.]
3. Various videos [on reserve at SUNY Canton Southworth Library]

**L. REFERENCES:**

1. Case, Nelly M. & Ledoux, Stephen F. (1997). *The Panda and Monkey King Christmas – A Family's Year in China*. Canton, NY: ABCs.
2. Cosbey, Robert C. (2001). *Watching China Change*. Toronto: Between the Lines.
3. Huang, Ray. (1997). *China: A Macro History*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, Inc.
4. Roberts, J. A. G. (1999). *A Concise History of China*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
5. Zhao, Ling-zhu & Kramer, Ione. (1988). *Chinese History – From Primitive Society Down Through the Qing Dynasty*. Beijing, China: Foreign Languages Press.

**M. EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom / Internet / DVD / Video

**N. GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Discussion Boards
- Written Assignments
- Mid-term Exam
- Final Exam
- Participation

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:** (must use the outline format listed below)

- I. Module 1 Introduction to the “Middle Kingdom”
  - A. Orientation
  - B. Pretest
  - C. History Book: Preface
  - D. Society: Introduction & Chapter I
  - E. Weekly Discussion
- II. Module 2 The Prehistory and Early History of China
  - A. History Book: Chapters 1-3
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- III. Module 3 From the Period of Division to the Tang Dynasty
  - A. History Book: Chapters 4-5
  - B. Assignment#1
  - C. Weekly Discussion
- IV. Module 4 The Song and Yuan Dynasties
  - A. History Book: Chapters 6-7
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- V. Module 5 The Early Modern Period: The Ming and the Early Qing
  - A. History Book: Chapters 8-9
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- VI. Module 6 China in the Late Qing
  - A. History Book: Chapter 10
  - B. Assignment #2

- C. Weekly Discussion
- VII. Module 7 Republican China, 1912-1949
  - A. History Book: Chapters 11-12
  - B. Mid-term
  - C. Weekly Discussion
- VIII. Module 8 China since the 1949 Revolution
  - A. History Book: Chapters 13-14
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- IX. Module 9 Patterns from the Past & China's Contemporary Culture
  - A. Culture Book: Chapters II & XIV
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- X. Module 10 China's Political System
  - A. Culture Book: Chapter III
  - B. Assignment #3
  - C. Weekly Discussion
- XI. Module 11 China's Economy
  - A. Culture Book: Chapter IV
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- XII. Module 12 China's Population & Environment
  - A. Culture Book: Chapters IX, X & XI
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- XIII. Module 13 China's Education & Technology
  - A. Culture Book: Chapter XIII & Conclusion: China in the 21st Century
  - B. Assignment #4
  - C. Weekly Discussion
- XIV. Module 14 "One Country, Two Systems" and China's Foreign Policy
  - A. Culture Book: Chapters XV, XVI & XVII
  - B. Weekly Discussion
- XV. Review + Final

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:**