

**HIST 387 Early China**  
**CRN 23089**

**301 CON**

**Prof. Ina Asim**

**Office location: 317 McKenzie Hall**

**Office hours: T: 1:30 pm- 3:30 pm remotely; please contact me for a Zoom appointment**

**email: inaasim@uoregon.edu**

## **University, department, and course policies**

### **Learning Accommodation**

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation, please notify me in the first week of class. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155.

**General Inquiries:** [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu)

**Alternative Testing:** [aectesting@uoregon.edu](mailto:aectesting@uoregon.edu)

### **Academic integrity**

Presenting the work of another person as your own is considered plagiarism. Cases of **plagiarism** will be referred to the **Office of Student Conduct**. Please read the policies for plagiarism at the University of Oregon: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/Links> to an external site.

## **Grade policies of the History Department**

A+: Work of unusual distinction. Rarely awarded. A: Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument. Well executed and reasonably free of errors.

B: Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregards for the assigned question.

Please note that your attendance will be recorded in Canvas. I will NOT use the Canvas grade book for other grades. You will know all your grades through the returned assignments and you can always ask me about your grades achieved in the various assignments.

## Course Policies

Instructors are expected to take attendance during Covid-19. Please notify me if you won't be able to attend the course. Unexcused absence during more than one class session leads to an automatic reduction of the final grade by one point of a grade.

Examples: An A+ will be converted to an A, a B- will be converted to a C+.

**Active participation is part of your grade, attendance alone is insufficient.**

## Email Policy

I'll answer emails within 48 hours. Emails that request information which can be found on the website will not be answered. Please always first refer to the class news on our website. No emails will be answered on Sundays.

## Course Requirements

1. **Regular attendance 10%.** As required by the university I'll take attendance. Please notify me if you are not able to attend a course session.
2. **Paper topic** assignment (due Wednesday 1/19) and **paper research question** assignment (due Monday 1/31). **10%**
3. **Museum visit report.** At least 1 page, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt., due Wednesday, **February 23 (Week 8).** **10%**  
Find one object that relates to a topic discussed in 'Early China' in the Chinese Gallery of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon. You can check for additional information <https://jsma.uoregon.edu/chinese> [Links to an external site.](#) or for reference pieces in
  1. The National Palace Museum, Beijing: <https://en.dpm.org.cn/collections/> ([Links to an external site.](#))
  2. The National Palace Museum, Taipei: <https://www.npm.gov.tw/en/> ([Links to an external site.](#))
  3. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search#!?q=Chinese> ([Links to an external site.](#))
  4. British Museum, London: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection> ([Links to an external site.](#))
  5. Asian Art Museum, San Francisco: <https://collections.asianart.org/> ([Links to an external site.](#))**Describe the object (category, date, material, size, color, possible damages, and function) and explain the historical context of the object.**
4. **Midterm exam** (Week 6: Monday 2/7). **20%.**
5. **Two quizzes** (Week 4: Wednesday 1/26; Week 9: Wednesday 3/2) **30%**; 15% each.

6. **One short paper** of 8 pages incl. 1 page bibliography, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt., due on **Wednesday, March 9 (Week 10)**. Topic options will be discussed during the first meeting. **20%**.

## Readings

**Course book** (available in the DuckStore and as an **ebook** online through the Knight Library website:

**Morris Rossabi, *A History of China***. Chichester, West Sussex; Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell; 2014. Further readings will be posted in the Canvas module 'Resources'.

### Week 1

01/03 M 1. Introduction; chronological survey of political and military events

01/05 W 2. The first written records of Chinese history (Rossabi, 3-23)

### Week 2

01/10 M 3. The Zhou conquest of the Shang (Rossabi, 25-35).

01/12 W 4. The Age of Philosophy (Rossabi, 36-53)

### Week 3

01/17 M 5. No class; Martin Luther King Jr. Day

01/19 W 6. The Qin & Han I (Rossabi, 56-66)

**Paper topic assignment due**

### Week 4

01/24 M 7. The Han II (Rossabi 66-72)

01/26 W 8. **QUIZ 1; Today's reading assignment is NOT part of the quiz!**

The Later Han (Rossabi 76-85)

### Week 5

01/31 M 9. China's neighbors: The Xiongnu

**Paper research question(s) assignment due (see respective module for reference)**

02/02 W 10. Han inventions and ideas of the afterlife as seen in the tomb of Lady Dai; Han influence in burial and regional political independence: The tomb of Zhao Mo in Nanyue

### Week 6

02/07 M 11. **MIDTERM**

02/09 W 12. Han ideas of the afterlife: the two souls (Rossabi, 86-95)

### Week 7

02/14 M 13. The Period of Disunity: The Three Kingdoms (Rossabi, 95-109)

02/16 W 14. **Museum visit**

### Week 8

02/21 M 15. The advent of Buddhism (Rossabi 110-120)

The transmission of Buddhism, important Buddhist schools influential in China;  
important patrons of Buddhism in China (see additional assigned readings);  
02/23 W 16. Unification under the Sui-Dynasty and the beginning of the Golden Age of the  
Tang (Rossabi 123-133)

**Museum visit report due in class!**

**Week 9**

02/28 M 17. Cosmopolitan Life: The capital Chang'an and the rural economy (Rossabi, 128-138)

03/02 W 18. **QUIZ 2**; Networks across borders: The significance of the Silkroad and the finds of Dunhuang;

**Week 10**

03/07 M 19. The decline of the Tang (Rossabi, 142-166)

03/09 W 20. The Tang-Song transition (Rossabi, 173-182)

**Paper due by 10:00 am!**

**SAMPLE ONLY**