



Community Education Fall 2023

China: Then & Now

Instructor: Liang Chang

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Course Description:

Time, space, and identity - enduring issues in Chinese history, are explored. Study China's early dynasties to understand how physical geography impacted its inhabitants and how the many ethnicities within the country affected Chinese identity. Learn about China's origins as told in ancient texts and through modern archeology. Explore the first dynasties during the Chinese bronze age, the many facets of Confucianism and his Analects, and the competing schools of thought that followed.

Learning Outcomes:

Obtain basic understanding of Chinese culture, traditions, philosophy and religion. Gain the knowledge of some key historical events of each dynasty.

Gain appreciation of some of the recent archeological discoveries in China. Understand the formation of the Chinese people's values and social norms.

Course Schedule:

Dates: 10/31-11/28 (Tuesdays)

Hours: 1:30PM – 3:30PM

Location: Columbia Tech Center Campus

Week 1: Time: 10/31, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Session (1)

Key topics:

- ❖ Shang dynasty (bone inscription, bronze dynasty) 1046 BC
- ❖ Zhou dynasty (Qu Yuan, Duanwu festival) 256 BC
- ❖ The Spring and Autumn (Taoism, Confucianism)
- ❖ The 1st Emperor, Qin Dynasty and The Great Wall 206 BC
- ❖ Archaeological discovery of the 1st emperor

Week 2: 11/07, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Session (2)

Key topics:

- ❖ Three Kingdoms 256 AD
- ❖ The Flourish of Buddhism in Jin dynasty
- ❖ 420 AD Zu Chong Zhi, a famous mathematician
- ❖ The Great Canal of Sui Dynasty 618 AD
- ❖ Poets of Tang Dynasty 907 AD

Week 3: 11/14, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Session (3)

Key Topics:

- ❖ Kuangyin Zhao, Founder of Song Dynasty 479 AD
- ❖ An Shi Wang, Reformer
- ❖ Sophistication of Chinese Calligraphy
- ❖ Genghis Khan and his Mongolian occupation 1368 AD
- ❖ Military Expansion
- ❖ Invention of Compass and Explosive Powder 1368 AD

Week 4: 11/21, 1:30pm-3:30pm**Session (4)****Key Topics:**

- ❖ The Navigation of Zheng He to Western Countries 1644 AD
- ❖ The Forbidden City-an imperial court
- ❖ Opium War and Boxer Rebellion 1840 AD
- ❖ Fall of the last Dynasty 1911 AD

Week 5: 11/28, 1:30pm-3:30pm**Session (5)****Key Topics:**

- ❖ Founding a new republic 1911 AD
- ❖ Mao and Chiang Kai-shek
- ❖ Communist movement in China
- ❖ The Chinese civil war
- ❖ The cultural revolution 1966 AD
- ❖ Deng's economic reform
- ❖ A fast-growing economy and new challenge to the west

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your "junk mail," but we can assure you it's from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions, you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu. If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

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