GENA2322A General History of China (in English)

2nd Term, 2020-21 (Fridays 1:30 – 3:15 pm) *zoom teaching*

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This course examines the development of the major Chinese schools of thoughts, such as Confucianism, Taoism/Daoism, and Legalism (pendulum cycle) as well as the main themes and events in Chinese history. The course also examines the greatness of Han and Tang as well as the dynastic imperial China and modern/20th century China (from ancient to modern).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Comprehend the Chinese thought, especially Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism;
2. Understand the development and main themes in Chinese history;
3. Arouse the students’ interests in Chinese history and culture.


Major Themes: The Theory of Pendulum or Cycle of Confucianism, Taoism/Daoism, and Legalism (The Intellectual Foundations in the Legacy of Ancient China). (Hsiao, Chapter I: Various Schools of Political Thought in the Pre-Ch’in Age, pp. 28-78).


4. Feb. 5 Legalism in the Ch’in/Qin and Han Dynasties (Hsiao, Chapter VIII, pp. 427-468).


Feb. 12 HOLIDAY

5. Feb. 19 Mid-term (50%) [Back up: Take Home?]

6. Feb. 26 Traditional Chinese Medicine

7. Mar. 5 Legalism under Sui Wen-ti, and Confucianism, Taoism & Buddhism in Tang China (Cambridge History of China)


9. Mar. 19 The Prosperities and Weaknesses of the Song Dynasties and the Mongol Yuan Dynasty
10. Mar. 26 The Centralized Government of the Ming Dynasty
   Apr. 2 HOLIDAY
11. Apr. 9 The Rise and Fall of the Ch’ing/Qing China (Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*)
12. Apr. 16 Modern China in the 19th century (Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*);
    Modern China in the 20th century: 1911 Revolution, the Sian Incident, 1936,
    and the establishment of the Peoples’ Republic of China (Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*)
13. Apr. 23 Conclusion and Overall Review
14. Centralized Examination (to be arranged by the RES) [Back up: Take Home?]

**Assessment Method (Back up – Take Home?)**
- Mid-term Quiz 50%
- Centralized Final Exam.  50%

**Main References:**
- *Cambridge History of China.* Vol.1: The Ch’in and Han Empires.

**Keywords:** Chinese history, Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism, modern China.

Frederick Cheung is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
**Topic: GENA2322A**
**Time: Jan 15, 2021 01:30 PM Hong Kong SAR**
https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/99169305443?pwd=UkV1a2RNbWxwYS82dHh4bnh2OTFZz09
Meeting ID: 991 6930 5443
Passcode: 938673