GENA2322A General History of China (in English) [中國通史]

2nd Term, 2017-18  (Fridays 1:30 – 3:15 pm at NAH213)

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This course examines the development of the major Chinese schools of thoughts, such as Confucianism, Taoism, 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, 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. 2 Legalism in the Ch’in and Han Dynasties (Hsiao, Chapter VIII, pp. 427-468).
5. Feb. 9 Mid-term (50%) [Feb. 16 HOLIDAY]
6. Feb. 23 Traditional Chinese Medicine
7. Mar. 2 Legalism under Sui Wen-ti, and Confucianism, Taoism & Buddhism in T’ang China (Cambridge History of China)
8. Mar. 9 The Greatness of T’ang China (Cambridge History of China)
9. Mar. 16 The Prosperities and Weaknesses of the Sung Dynasties and the Mongol Yuan Dynasty
10. Mar. 23 The Centralized Government of the Ming Dynasty [Mar. 30
HOLIDAY]
11. Apr. 6 The Rise and Fall of the Ch’ing China (Hsu, The Rise of Modern China)
12. Apr. 13 Modern China in the 19th century (Hsu, The Rise of Modern China)
13. Apr. 20 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)
14. Centralized Examination (to be arranged by the RES)

Assessment Method:
Mid-term Quiz 50%
Centralized Final Exam. 50%

Main Reference:

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