



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

## **ASIA\_V 320 - History of Early China**

**Weiting Guo**

This course explores the historical formation of the Chinese civilization from the Neolithic era (circa 10,000–2,200 BCE) through the Han Empire (202 BCE–220 CE). Our primary goal is to investigate different aspects of early Chinese civilization, including the establishment of political authority, the evolution of Chinese culture, society, and economy, and the formation of Chinese empires. Through the exploration of the dynamic process of change over time, this course sees the history of early China as a set of questions and debates. Challenging the once prevailing view of imperial China as “static,” “backward,” and “despotic,” this course discusses a wide array of factors and dynamics that shaped and changed the geo-cultural space that we call “China.” It examines both domestic and global forces behind the formation of Chinese society and explores the complex interactions between socio-political actors within and without China Proper.

**Mode of Delivery:** Online

### **Sample Readings**

Early China: A Social and Cultural History, by Feng Li, Cambridge University Press, 2013.

The Early Chinese Empires: Qin and Han, by Mark Edward Lewis, Belknap and Harvard University Press, 2007.

Sanctioned Violence in Early China, by Mark Edward Lewis, State University of New York Press, 1990.

### **Assignments**

Attendance|10

Participation and Class Discussion|10

Group Creative Playwriting Project|20

Quiz|15

Midterm Examination|20

Final Examination|25