



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

ASIA_V 411 - Chinese Political Thought and Institutions

Weiting Guo

This course examines the history of Chinese political thoughts and political institutions from the formation of the state in the 2nd millennium BCE to the eighth century CE when China witnessed the founding of one of its most celebrated dynasties, the Tang dynasty. Although political ideas will be covered, emphasis will be on the character and evolution of political institutions and patterns of political action as well as on changes and continuities that emerged through the historical process. Topics include fengjian, usually translated into English as “feudalism”, classical political thought, emperor and bureaucracy, structure of the central government, law and judicial process, local administration, foreign policies, civil service recruitment, and foreign rule. Challenging the once-dominant view that perceives Chinese law as “rule of man” and “irrational,” this course explores the inner logic of Chinese legal culture and the complex process of legitimation. Through critical reading

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

A History of Chinese Political Thought, by Kung-ch'üan Hsiao, translated by F.W. Mote, Princeton University Press, 1979.

Law and Society in Traditional China, by Tung-Tsu Chu, Foreword by A. F. P. Hulsewé, Mouton, 1965.

The Open Empire: A History of China to 1800, 2nd edition, by Valerie Hansen, W W Norton & Co Inc, 2015.

Assignments

Attendance|10

Participation and Class Discussion|10

Group Creative Playwriting Project|20

Quiz|15

Midterm Examination|20

Final Examination|25