



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 thought and institutions from the formation of the early state in the second millennium BCE to the rise of the Tang dynasty in the eighth century CE. While political ideas are addressed, the course emphasizes the evolution of political institutions, patterns of political action, and long-term changes and continuities. Topics include fengjian (“feudalism”), classical political thought, the emperor and bureaucracy, central and local administration, law and judicial processes, civil service recruitment, foreign policy, and empire building. Challenging the once-dominant view of Chinese law as merely “rule of man,” the course explores the inner logic of Chinese legal culture and processes of legitimation. Through readings and discussion, students will examine dispute resolution and the negotiation of social order and develop strong analytical skills.

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

### Assignments

Two Recorded Video Responses to Canvas Discussion Prompts | 20%

One English-Translated Source Analysis Assignment | 20%

Midterm Examination | 25%

Final Examination | 35%