

HIS 219
Introduction to Chinese History

Satisfies: GLO

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture," "Empires, Violence & Global Connections"

NOTE: Two sections of this course will be offered (same class, same professor, just two different day/times being offered). The options are the following:

Tu/Th, 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm

Tu/Th, 3:30 pm - 4:50 pm

Prof. Riga Shakya

This course serves as a general introduction to the culture and history of China from prehistory to the 21st century. The course is comprised of bi-weekly lectures delivered by the instructor, which incorporate in-class discussion and activities. Together, we will survey a variety of important developments in political and institutional history, philosophy, religion, and culture, drawing from a wide variety of primary sources (in translation): materials written by, fashioned by, or created by historical people whose civilization we are studying, as well as a rich array of secondary sources by contemporary historians and scholars of China. By engaging with these sources, we will deepen our understanding of Chinese civilization, with a focus on the three broad and overlapping themes of *lived experience*, *identity*, and *transcultural connections*. By critically engaging with these three themes over the semester, my goals for our class are for us to explore multiple modes of historical inquiry (textual, visual, material) to come to a better understanding of: 1) The social, political, and cultural worlds shaping the experiences of peoples in China. 2) How peoples and communities in China have conceived of themselves, and how these identities were expressed and interpreted through art and literary texts and other forms of cultural productions. 3) Patterns of connection, cultural exchange, and interaction among Chinese and neighboring states and polities. Requirements consist of active participation, 40-50 pages of reading per week, one visual & material culture project, a midterm exam, and a final exam.