

HIST 4550 Imperial China
Fall 2022
TR 9:30-10:50
WH 221

Instructor Contact

Instructor's name: Harold Tanner
Office Location: WH 256
Phone Number: n/a
Office Hours (in person or via Zoom): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00- 12:00 and 3:00-4:30; or by appointment.
Email: Harold.tanner@unt.edu

Communication Expectations

Communication with students will take place primarily through course announcements in Canvas and by e-mail. If you need to contact the instructor for any reason, e-mail to the above UNT e-mail address is the best way to do so. Please use your UNT e-mail account for all correspondence, as I cannot send messages regarding your work in the course to a personal non-UNT e-mail account. I will make every effort to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours, if not before. However, I may not be reading or responding to e-mail after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays or on weekends or holidays. If I do happen to see an e-mail which requires immediate attention, I will try to deal with it as soon as possible. However, please be aware that messages sent after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, late Friday afternoon or on weekends may not receive a response until the next business day.

Course Description

Survey of the development of Chinese political philosophy, statecraft, economics and society from the Xia dynasty (ca. 2205 BCE) through the High Qing (late 18th century CE). Issues considered include the development and characteristics of the imperial state; the role of Buddhism in Chinese history; women's roles in family, state and society; and political, economic and cultural relations with non-Chinese peoples and states.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Text

Harold M. Tanner. *China: A History Volume 1: From Neolithic Cultures to through the Great Qing Empire* Indianapolis: Hackett Publishers, 2010. Note: royalties generated by sales at UNT Bookstore and Voertman's are contributed to charity.

In addition to the designated textbook, undergraduate and graduate students will also be reading various online resources and PDF articles linked from Canvas

Attendance and Participation

All students will be attending lecture/discussion sessions in person according to the regular class schedule. Students should plan on taking notes during class sessions. Students should also be prepared to respond to questions from the instructor, to ask their own questions, make their own observations, and respond politely and respectfully to questions or observations made by their fellow students.

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know.

Use of personal computers to take notes is permitted. Use of personal computers and/or cell phones for other purposes can be a distraction to others and is disrespectful of the instructor and of your fellow students. If you have a personal emergency situation that requires you to be on your phone or computer, please quietly leave the classroom to deal with the situation as required.

Note: attendance in class is more than just being physically present in the room. I expect you to be paying attention and engaged. Being in the room, but focused on your phone, your computer, or private conversations with classmates is something less than full attendance. If such behavior is flagrant enough that I notice it, I reserve the right to mark you as "absent" even if you were physically present.

Course Structure

This course is a regular, face-to-face course taught in the classroom unless the university administration changes us from in-person to virtual instruction. Therefore, classroom attendance is expected except in case of absences for documented health or other significant reasons (including exposure to COVID-19). Documentation may take the form of a note from your physician, a clinic, or the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center.

The course is organized into 29 class sessions. The mid-term and final exams will be a "take-home" essays.

For each class session there is a Canvas page called "Materials." You will find the "Materials" pages for each class session under the "Modules" tab. Students are expected to have read or viewed the assigned material for each class session **before** class begins.

Each class session is dedicated to lecture/discussion of the material covered on a specific range of pages in the primary textbook for the course (*China: A History-vol. 1*) and other materials have been chosen to complement the material in the textbook. Because the course is live and in-person, the instructor may make changes in response to student questions and interests. When teaching live in a classroom, there are times when I come in prepared to lecture on one or another specific topic, but student questions lead me off in a completely different direction. There may also be times when student questions lead me to make some changes to the assignments for future classes. If that happens, I will let you know well ahead of time--in general, changes of this sort will be something that are generated by classroom discussion and driven by student interest anyway.

In short, we will get through the entire textbook but the daily schedule laid out here on Canvas should be considered as a framework that we will generally follow, not as something that is set in concrete and cannot be changed.

Course Requirements

Course requirements and grading

Assigned work	points	percent of grade
Attendance/participation	150	15%
Article summary/reaction paper (4 @ 50 points)	200	20%
Primary source reaction (10 @ 10 each)	100	10%
Mid-term exam	250	25%
Final exam	300	300%
Total	1000	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 90-100% (900-1000 points. Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (800-899 points. Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (700-799 points. Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (600-699 points. Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (599 points or less. Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 (November 21-December 8) of the fall semester to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

All assignments and due dates are clearly indicated in the course modules on Canvas.

Essay assignments will be screened for plagiarism using Turnitin.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work

As a general rule, I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#) ([Links to an external site.](#)) and provides written documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline. I understand that some of us, through no fault of our own, will encounter unexpected challenges which may impact our studies. If that happens, I ask that you communicate clearly and frankly with me so that we can work together on appropriate ways in which we can address those challenges together.

Plagiarism

In the internet age, plagiarism has become a more serious problem than ever. The American Historical Society has an entire section of its website dedicated to the problem of plagiarism: ***Plagiarism: Curricular Materials for History Instructors***. On the website, you will find the following definition of plagiarism:

The AHA's [Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct](#) ([Links to an external site.](#)) defines plagiarism as the appropriation of "the exact wording of another author without attribution," and the borrowing of "distinctive and significant research findings or interpretations" without proper citation. Most cases of plagiarism represent a failure to properly paraphrase, quote, and cite sources.

Forms of Plagiarism

The most obvious form of inappropriate borrowing involves the verbatim pirating of paragraphs, pages, or entire papers or chapters without quotation or attribution. The large amount of copying involved in such cases makes the occurrence of plagiarism undeniable. Most plagiarism is more subtle. Writers plagiarize, for example, when they fail to use quotation marks around borrowed material and to cite the source, use an inadequate paraphrase that makes only superficial changes to a text, or neglect to cite the source of a paraphrase. The result is often a patchwork of original and plagiarized texts that echoes the original sources in recognizable ways.

For more information on plagiarism, including a concrete example, please see: [Plagiarism: Curricular Materials for History Instructors](#).

The Writing Center at UNC Chapel Hill also has a useful handout on [Plagiarism](#).

Here at UNT, University of North Texas Policy 0.6003 Student Academic Integrity defines plagiarism as follows:

“Plagiarism” means use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation, or b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

You may read the entire policy here: [Student Academic Integrity Policy 0.6003](#)

Further information on plagiarism can be found here: [Office of the Provost-Student Success: Academic Integrity](#).

Incidences of plagiarism will be handled strictly according to the procedure laid out in the policy. That procedure (quoting from the policy itself) is as follows:

Instructor Actions. An instructor who suspects that a student has engaged in an act of academic misconduct must make a good faith effort to contact the student in writing as soon as possible after detecting the suspected academic dishonesty. The instructor’s initial communication should be sent to the student’s University-assigned email address, and should convey the details of the suspected academic misconduct in sufficient detail to allow the student to prepare a written response, and direct the student to schedule an in-person conference with the instructor to discuss the suspected misconduct.

1. ***If the student does not respond to the instructor’s written communication within five (5) days of the instructor sending the email, the instructor may assess academic penalties in-line with the suspected academic dishonesty.***
2. ***If the student responds to the instructor’s written notice of suspected academic misconduct an in-person conference with the instructor should be scheduled. As part of the conference, the instructor will review all the evidence or information relevant to***

the suspected act of academic dishonesty and provide the student a full opportunity to respond.

3. ***If, after the conference, the instructor determines that the student has not engaged in an act of academic dishonesty, no sanctions will be imposed and the instructor will notify the student immediately.***
4. ***If the instructor determines upon preponderance of the evidence that the student has engaged in an act of academic dishonesty, the instructor will notify the student of this determination in writing, as soon as possible, if not immediately upon the conclusion of the conference.***
5. ***The instructor will submit the online Academic Integrity Single Violation Report with the factual summary, and any relevant documents, to support the findings and the imposed academic penalty. This will be filed in the Academic Integrity Database.***

Any commission of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

What is the penalty for plagiarism? As described in the policy:

"The following academic penalties may be assessed upon determination that academic misconduct has occurred: Admonition, Educational Assignment, Partial or No Credit for an Assignment or Assessment, Lower Final Course Grade, Course Failure, Probation, Suspension, Expulsion, and Revocation of Degree."

Of these penalties, those that an instructor may impose are: Admonition, Educational Assignment, Partial or No Credit for an Assignment or Assessment, Lower Final Course Grade, or Course Failure.

My policy for this course is that the penalty for any commission of plagiarism (even as little as a single sentence comprising only 1% or half a percentage point of the assignment) will be an "F" for the entire course. Please keep this in mind when working on written assignments for this course.

Other forms of cheating

University of North Texas Policy 0.6003 Student Academic Integrity also defines forms of cheating other than plagiarism. Students who are suspected of having committed any form of cheating other than plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the UNT policies and procedures laid out in Policy 0.6003 and/or follow procedures and recommendations outlined by the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Timeliness of Grading

Normally, I will return feedback on all written assignments within 1 week of the due date. However, if I see that I will be unable to return your feedback that quickly I will post an announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected.

Grade Disputes

Before you come to me to dispute a grade, please review your work in light of the grading rubric to make sure that you have a valid case to make. If you still want to dispute the grade, then e-mail me to set up a time to talk during office hours. When we meet, please show me whatever evidence you have to support your argument that you deserve a higher grade than you received.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- [Canvas Technical Requirements \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email
- MSWord (for essays—including ability to use footnote or endnote function)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel, Calibri or Times new Roman and use a size 10 or 12 point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ;-).
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

See these [Engagement Guidelines](#) for more information.

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. If you are encountering technological issues, by all means, do let your instructor know that you are experiencing problems—but rely on the Help Desk to solve those problems!

UNT Help Desk: [UNT Student Help Desk site](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#).

Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling](#)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- [Registrar](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Multicultural Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Pride Alliance](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Lab](#)
- [MathLab](#)