A. Cover Application

1. Proposed field of study: FSHT

2. Course number: MLC 225

3. Course title: Chinese Culture and Civilization

4. Catalog description:
This is an interdisciplinary introduction to Chinese society and culture from earliest times to the present. Explores topics on ancient philosophy, religion, literature, art, architecture, customs, and other aspects of China’s rich and diverse heritage, and introduces social transformation from a pre-modern empire to a modern nation state.

5. Prerequisites: None

6. Unit: 1 unit

7. Estimate of student enrollment: 25

8. By whom and when the course will be offered: Kun Qian every other year

9. Staffing implications: none

10. Adequacy of library, technology, and other resources: adequate


12. Contact person: Kun Qian

B. Explanation of Field of Study fulfillment

How the course fulfills FSHT:

This course is organized roughly following a chronological order to introduce the evolution and transformation of Chinese civilization across 5000 years of history, yet it is not so much about history as about historical context or perspective. It mostly focuses on the interactions between disciplines: history, philosophy, religion, literature, art, economics, and political science in the construction of “civilization.” The emphasis is on the critical actors and events that characterize the continuity and discontinuity of the ideas, institutions, social norms, cultural practices, and physical environment. The objective is twofold: one is to draw attention to the relationship between history and its agent—how history was constructed by the agent and at the same time the agent was shaped by a continuing historical way of thinking; the other is to encourage students to reflect on how people have imagined history, so that from the discrete points of historical events they can see how people have imagined Chinese history and civilization. Through this course, the instructor hopes to inspire students to pursue more in-depth study and research on Chinese history and culture.

The course is divided into two parts: the first half deals with the pre-nineteenth century Chinese culture and civilization, the second half focuses on modern transitions from a moralistic, Confucian empire to a Maoist socialist state to the present post-revolutionary-market-economy country. The specific history and culture of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and minority groups are also introduced. Social change, urban life, popular culture, and the values and ideas that captivate contemporary Chinese people’s attention will also be addressed. Upon completing the course, students will gain a broad understanding of Chinese culture and society, and be able to participate in the discussion on how inherited modes of thinking still shape the way Chinese people engage the present and face the challenges of the future.
Over all, by “emphasizing the critical analysis of sources and the interrelationships among ideas, institutions, social structures, and events within one or more interpretive frameworks,” this course fosters “students' awareness of the methods and perspectives” for understanding Chinese society and culture in historical context. (Statement in the description of Historical Studies Field of Study from the catalog)

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Syllabus
MLC 225: Chinese Culture and Civilization

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to Chinese society and culture from earliest times to the present. The first part of the course explores ancient literature, philosophy, religion, art, architecture, customs, and other aspects of China’s rich and diverse heritage. The second part will be devoted to China’s transition to a modern society, covering such topics as social changes, urban life, popular culture, and the values and ideas that captivate contemporary Chinese people’s attention. Cultural traditions of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Tibet will also be addressed.

The focus of the course will be on the close reading of carefully selected texts including archaeological records, historical writings, philosophical works, novels, poems, and stories. In conjunction with close readings of representative texts, the course will utilize a multitude of visual evidence, such as pictures, paintings, and documentary/feature films, whenever possible to make a more vivid impression of the Chinese past.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Throughout the semester, students will gain an understanding of the following questions: what forces converged to produce Chinese civilization, and how did those forces adhere or grow apart, persist or perish, over time? How do perceptions of the past or inherited modes of thinking shape the way Chinese people engage the present and face the challenges of the future? Students will also learn how to critically examine Chinese cultural and literary materials.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS and COURSE MATERIALS
Tao Qian, “Peach Blossom Spring”
Wang Wei, “The Deer Enclosure”
Li Bo, “Poem on Wine”
Du Fu, “A Song of War Chariots”
Su Shih, “Water music prelude”
Lu Xun, “A Madman’s Diary” and “Kong Yiji” in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* (Columbia UP, 1995), pp. 3-20
Hong Kong and Taiwan historical events (online sources)

Visual materials:

*5000 years of Chinese civilization* (华夏五千年, documentary film)
*One Hundred Years of China* (百年中国 documentary film, 2000)
*The East is Red* (东方红 documentary film, 1965)
*Death Song of the River* (河殇 documentary film, 1987)
*Gate of Heavenly Peace* (天安门 documentary film, 1996);
*China Action* 中国行动 (The Sun 100 太阳 100, 1993)
*China Rises* (documentary film, 2005)
*Documenting a Global City Beijing* (documentary film)
*Sin Cities* (documentary films)
*China: Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tibet* (documentary film)

Movie clips from feature films:
*Trouble Shooters* 顽主 (1989)
*Hero* 英雄(2002)
*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (卧虎藏龙, 2000)
Bruce Lee movies (Hong Kong, 1960s)
*Dust in the Wind* (恋恋风尘, Taiwan, 1988)

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**
Attendance and participation will comprise 25 % of the final grade. Should you miss more than 4 class sessions, your final grade will be dropped a minor letter grade (e.g., from “A-” to “B+”). You are responsible for contacting me with regard to class assignments and materials introduced in class during your absence.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:**
Students are expected to read the course materials in advance and come to classes prepared to discuss them in some detail. Besides the readings in the two textbooks, other additional reading and visual materials will be posted on the course blackboard.

**QUIZZES AND EXAMS:**
There will be two take-home exams, to be distributed on Monday, March 1 and Wednesday, April 21 and to be due on Thursday, March 4 and Monday, April 26, respectively. Combined, the exams will comprise 55% of the final grade.

There will be two in-class quizzes, one on Monday, February 15 and the other on Monday, March 29. Each counts as 10% of the total grade. They will take up roughly 20 minutes of class on those days.

No make-ups are granted on quizzes and exams.

**GRADING:**

| Attendance: | 15% |
| Participation: | 10% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Mid-term Exam: | 25% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**
If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability.
POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Each student in this course is expected to abide by the UR Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the individual student's own work.

I respect and uphold University policies and regulations pertaining to racial or ethnic discrimination, the observation of religious holidays, and plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1:
1/11: Inventing China: The orientation of time and space
1/13: Prehistory—The origin of Chinese civilization
   View: 5000 years of Chinese civilization (华夏五千年, documentary film)
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 3-23; (2) Zhi E’Xiang, “The Yellow Emperor and the Dragon” in The Basics of Traditional Chinese Culture (Beijing: Foreign Language Press, 2005), 1-6. (3) Ebrey, 1, 2, 4.

Week 2:
1/18: The Establishment of China’s Institutional Pattern:
Imperial, bureaucratic, and family systems, and the ethnic identities.
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 25-32, 50-61, 71-80; (2) Ebrey, 5, 9, 11, 12.
1/20: The Establishment of China’s Cultural Pattern:
   Philosophy and Religion (1)—Confucianism
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 32-42; (2) Ebrey, 6, 8, 10, 13;

Week 3:
1/25: Philosophy and Religion (2)—Taoism
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 42-45; (2) Ebrey, 3, 7, 18, 20.
1/27: Philosophy and Religion (3)—Buddhism
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 85-97, 103-104; (2) Ebrey, 22.

Week 4:
2/1: Philosophy and Religion (4)—Popular Religion
2/3: Classical Chinese Literature and Arts (1): Prose and Poetry
   The Book of Songs
   Tao Qian, Wang Wei, Li Bo, Du Fu, Bai Juyi etc.

Week 5:
2/8: Classical Chinese Literature and Arts (2): Painting, Calligraphy, and Architecture
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 137-165.
2/10 Traditional Chinese Society (1): Law and Ethics

Week 6:
   Read: (1) Ebrey 15, 17, 29, 38, 49, 54, 56, 62;

First Quiz
2/17. Traditional Chinese Society (3): The Shi Class (scholars)
   Read: Li Gongzuo “Nan Ko Chi”; (2) Ebrey, 30, 46, 66.

**Week 7:**

   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 169-217; (2) Ebrey, 41, 50.

**Week 8:**
3/1 Ethnic/National Identities:
   Chinese under Mongol and Manchu Regimes; the concept of “barbarian” in Chinese society.
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 234-305; (2) Ebrey, 39, 44, 60.

3/3 Transition to Modernity
   Read: Ebrey, 69, 73, 74.

**Midterm Exam due Thursday, 3/4**

**Week 9:**
3/15 Modernity and the Negation of Chinese Cultural Tradition:
   Lu Xun and the May Fourth Movement
   View: One Hundred Years of China ( documentary film, 2000)
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 305-319; (2) Lu Xun, “A Madman’s Diary” and “Kong Yiji” in The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature (Columbia UP, 1995), pp. 3-20; (2) Ebrey, 73, 76, 77.

   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 322-341; (2) Ebrey, 78.

**Week 10:**
   The Maoist Era
   Read: (1) Schirokauer & Brown, 346-364; (2) Ebrey, 86, 88, 91.


**Week 11:**
3/29 The Negation of Revolution: post-revolutionary discourse (1)
   View: Death Song of the River ( documentary film, 1987)

   **Second Quiz**;
   3/31 Post-revolutionary discourse (2)
   View: Gate of Heavenly Peace ( documentary film, 1996);
   Read: (1) Ebrey, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**Week 12:**
4/5 Post-revolutionary discourse (3)
   Revival of Confucianism.
   View: movie clips from Trouble Shooters 頑主 (1989) and Hero 英雄(2002)
4/7 Post-revolutionary discourse (4)
Rethinking of the Modern Chinese Revolution; New Leftist, liberals, traditionalist, and Maoist.
View: movie clips from China Action 中国行动 (The Sun 100 太阳 100) and China Rises (documentary films);

Week 13:
4/12 City Culture (1): Beijing
View: Movie clips from Documenting a Global City Beijing (documentary film) and Beijing Bicycle.

4/14 City Culture (2): Shanghai
View: Movie clips from China Rises and Sin Cities (documentary films)

Week 14:
4/19 Minority culture: Tibet and Inner Mongolia
View: movie clips from China: Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tibet

4/21 Hong Kong and Taiwan
View: movie clips from Bruce Lee movies and Dust in the Wind (恋恋风尘, Taiwan, 1988)
Read: Hong Kong and Taiwan historical events (online sources)

Final Exam due Monday, 4/26