THE COURSE: introduction to some of the fundamental values, issues, and practices of Chinese society and culture. The course is organized thematically, not chronologically. We will spend three sessions each on eight broad areas of central importance, which will spill over into one another, as follows: 1) Loyalty and Dissent; 2) Beliefs; 3) History and Literature; 4) Politics and Government 5) Social Relations; 6) Material Culture; 7) China and Others; 8) War and Revolution. Readings in primary sources include novels, short stories, and eyewitness accounts; the “textbook” consists of a collection of biographies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1) Attendance and participation. Attendance will be taken at both. 20% of grade
2) Keeping up with assigned readings, which will be discussed in section. Thus it is important to complete assignments the week they are listed.
3) Written work, as follows:
   a) one take-home map assignment, due in class November 3. 20% of grade. A handout listing places to include will be posted online by no later than October 27. Please draw your own map and do not download from the internet.
   b) Midterm exam, in class on October 27 20% of grade. Exam will consist of short identifications, “true or false” questions, and a short essay
   c) 3-5 page paper on ONE of the following novels (partial or abridged version) EITHER a) Monkey (DUE OCTOBER 6) OR Three Kingdoms, (DUE OCTOBER 18) OR Story Of the Stone (DUE NOVEMBER 10) Paper topic to be selected from a list that will be posted on Blackboard. 20% of grade
d) Final Take-Home Exam, due in class December 13. 20% of grade.

All grades, including the final grade for the course, will be reached upon joint evaluation by the professor and the teaching assistants.

OPTIONAL: Discussion forum on Blackboard where students may, if they wish, respond to or raise questions about readings and lectures and respond to others’ postings

READINGS

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and on reserve in Bobst Library. Books may also be available from online booksellers but if you take this route be sure to order at least two weeks before they are needed.

Cao Xueqin, tr D. Hawkes, *The Story of the Stone*, volume 1
Lu Xun, *Selected Stories*
Struve, Lynn, eds., *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm*
Waley, Arthur, tr., *Monkey*
Wills, John E., Jr, *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History*
NOTE: YOU MUST READ ALL THREE NOVELS (*Story of the Stone; Three Kingdoms; Monkey*) BUT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE ON ONLY ONE

OTHER READINGS IN THE SYLLABUS ARE MARKED WITH * AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD

HOW TO ACCESS AN NYU BLACKBOARD SITE:

1. Log in to NYUHome at [http://home.nyu.edu](http://home.nyu.edu) with a valid NYU NetID and password. If you do not yet have a NetID, you can activate their NYUHome accounts by accessing [http://start.nyu.edu](http://start.nyu.edu), then proceeding to [http://home.nyu.edu](http://home.nyu.edu).
2. Click on the "Academics" tab and look under the "Classes" channel for the course name.
3. Click on the course name to enter the NYU Blackboard course site.
4. Click on “Course Documents” and find the reading you are looking for.

Additional assistance for this class is available to you free of charge at the College Learning Center located on the 1st Floor of Weinstein Hall (right behind Java City). For information on one-on-one and group peer tutoring, please stop by the CLC or go to their website: [http://www.nyu.edu/cas/clc/index.html](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/clc/index.html)

ATTACHED TO THIS SYLLABUS ARE:

1) a chronology of Chinese dynasties
2) romanization conversion table, e.g. pinyin ‘qiao’ = WG ‘ch’iao’
3) CAS Academic Guidelines for Students

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHILE READING “ENCOUNTERING SORROW”

--What themes can you discern in the poem?
--What does the poem have to say about loyalty and dissent?
--What does the poem have to say about personal integrity?
--What does the poem say about the relationship between one’s personal feelings and one’s public duty?
--Does the poem have anything relevant to say to us today?
SYLLABUS

NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS A “WORK IN PROGRESS”, THAT IS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE IN THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND POSTED TO THE COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE.

Sept 6 INTRODUCTION
Sept 8 IN CLASS MOVIE: “Gate of Heavenly Peace” (first part)

PART ONE: LOYALTY AND DISSENT

Sept 13 Qu Yuan and the Tradition of Integrity. Read “Encountering Sorrow”
Sept 15 Loyalism and Collaboration. Read “Yue Fei,” “Zheng Chenggong (Coxinga) (in Wills); read Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm 6-54, 93-113, 179-203
Sept 20 Democracy in China: Read “Liang Qichao,” (biogs) . Recommended: view remainder of “Gate of Heavenly Peace”, available in the Avery Fisher Center at Bobst Library

PART TWO: BELIEFS

Sept 22 The Confucian Tradition. Read “Yu” “Confucius” “Wang Yangming” (in Wills); read *Analects, selectionsy). Start reading Monkey
Sept 27 Buddhism and Daoism. Read “Hui Neng” and “Qiu Chuji, the Daoist” (in Wills). Continue reading Monkey.
Sept 29 19th and 20th century ideologies. Read “Mao” (in Wills). Read *Liang Qichao essay on “destroyed countries”. Finish reading Monkey

PART THREE: HISTORY AND LITERATURE

Oct 6 The History of History: Read “Sima Qian”, “Empress Wu” (in Wills); read *Sima Qian’s letter explaining why he chose castration over death. Begin reading Three Kingdoms
THOSE WHO CHOSE TO WRITE ON MONKEY SHOULD TURN IN THEIR PAPERS IN CLASS TODAY
Oct 11 Literature and Society: poetry, fiction, drama, storytelling. Read *Tao Yuanming, Peach Blossom Spring; read *Lu Xun, ”My Old Home” and “Medicine”; continue reading Three Kingdoms

PART FOUR: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Oct 18 Unification and Division. Read “The First Emperor of Qin” (in Wills)
THOSE WHO CHOSE TO WRITE ON THREE KINGDOMS SHOULD TURN IN THEIR PAPERS IN CLASS TODAY
Oct 20 Law and Bureaucracy. Read primary sources on Chinese law, tba
Oct 25 Reform and Revolution Read “Su Dongpo” (in Wills), *20th c PRIMARY SOURCE tba

October 27 MIDTERM EXAM HELD IN CLASS
PART FIVE: SOCIAL RELATIONS

Nov 1 Patronage and Connections. Begin reading *Story of the Stone*
Nov 3 Female Elite Culture. Read “Ban Zhao” (in Wills); *Ban Zhao’s text; Continue reading *Story of the Stone*

PART SIX: MATERIAL CULTURE

Nov 10: Taste and Aesthetics reading tba
THOSE WHO CHOSE TO WRITE ON STORY OF THE STONE SHOULD TURN IN THEIR PAPERS IN CLASS TODAY
Nov 15: Food *Read *Yuan Mei, *Li Yu (extracts)
Nov 17: Opium read *”Opium Talk”*

PART SEVEN: CHINA AND OTHERS

Nov 22 Silk Roads read primary source to be posted
Nov 24 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
Nov 29 Christianity. Read “Hong Xiuquan” (in Wills),
Dec 1 19th-century Imperialism Read Zou Rong

PART EIGHT: WAR AND REVOLUTION

Dec 6 Strategic Culture. Readings tba
Dec 8 Military Culture (show slides) Read “Qianlong” (in Wills)
Dec 13 War and Revolution in the 20th century
TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS TODAY
Pre-Dynastic
Archaeological Record
A series of stone-age cultures, widely distributed in North and South China and chronologically ranging from early Paleolithic to late Neolithic

Literary Tradition
A series of legendary sage-rulers and creators of successive stages of civilization, of whom the most important are:
- Fu Hsi, Subduer of Animals (2852-2738)
- Shen Nung, the Divine Husbandman (2737-2698)
- Huang Ti, the Yellow Lord (2697-2598)
- Yao (2357-2256)
- Shun (2255-2206)

Pre-Imperial Dynasties (2205-222 BC)
Hsia (2205-1766)
Now more or less confirmed by archaeology. Founded by Yu the Great, who before becoming ruler saved humankind from a vast flood and made the world fit for sedentary human habitation.

Shang (1765-1123)
Many archaeological remains (capital at Anyang) Earliest script; bronzes

Zhou (1122-256; actual founding probably ca. a century later)
China’s age of ‘feudalism’: many small principalities nominally under Zhou suzerainty

841 onward: a single standard chronology
Western Zhou (1122-771)
Eastern Zhou (770-256)
- Spring and Autumn (qunqiu) period (722-481)
- Warring States (zhanguo) period (403-222)
  Increasing warfare between half a dozen large states; rise of iron technology; classical age of Chinese philosophy

The Early Empires (221 BC-220)
Qin (221-207)
Creation of China’s first universal empire; a centralized bureaucratic government with unified script, law, weights and measures, roads; building of the first Great Wall

Han (206 BC-220 AD), capital in XXXXXXX (approx modern Xi’an)
Age of classical empire; elaboration of Qin system of government; expansion into Central Asia and elsewhere through wars and trade; rise to orthodoxy of Confucian beliefs

Former or Western Han (206 BC-5 AD)
Wang Mang as Regent and Acting Emperor (6-8 AD); then as emperor of “Xin” dynasty (9-23 AD)

Later or Eastern Han (25-220 AD)

Period of Disunity (190/220-589)
Spread of Buddhism; division between north and south; invasion of the north by ‘barbarian’ groups who establish successive non-Chinese states and dynasties
Three Kingdoms (190/220-280)
Jin Dynasty (265-316)
Northern and Southern Dynasties (317-589)

The Middle Empires (590-1279)
Sui (590-617)
Reunification of north and south into one empire
Tang (618-906), capital in Chang’an, Shaanxi (approx modern Xi’an)
Political grandeur, cultural brilliance, cosmopolitanism, apogee of Buddhism, beginning of printing
Five Dynasties (907-959)
An interim period of brief ruling states
Song (960-1279)
A “Renaissance” dynasty: relative political weakness coupled with great economic development, urbanization, spread of printing; rise of “Neo-Confucianism”, decline of Buddhism
Northern Song (960-1126), capital in Kaifeng, Henan
Southern Song (1127-1279), capital in Hangzhou, Zhejiang

The Later Empires (1280-1912)
Yuan (Mongol) (1279-1367)
China’s first total rule by non-Chinese—it becomes part of a vast network of Mongol empires stretching right across the Eurasian landmass. Marco Polo and other Europeans in China.
Ming (1368-1644)
Restoration of Chinese rule; government voyages to South Asia and East Africa (early 15th century); late 16th-century commercial boom and intense consumerism; economic integration into emerging global economy via silver and plant imports from New World exchanged for Chinese silks and porcelains
Qing (Manchus, 1644-1912)
China’s 2nd total rule by non-Chinese, who combine Inner Asian and Chinese traditions. Political expansion into Northern and Central Asia; empire ruled from Beijing is largest ever. From early 19th century, increasing political/economic/cultural impact of West (imperialism)

Republican China
Republic of China (1912-49)
Sun Yat-sen; China divided by warlord rulers, then (1928) partial reunification by Guomindang party under Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek); Sino-Japanese War (1937-45); civil war between Guomindang and Chinese Communists (CCP) (1945-49)
People’s Republic of China (1949-)
Guomindang and Jiang Jieshi flee to Taiwan (1949) and establish Republic of China; CCP under Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) establish People’s Republic (PRC) “The Chinese People Have Stood Up”.
Death of Mao 1976