

# GENA2322A General History of China (in English) [中國通史]

2<sup>nd</sup> Term, 2021-22 (Fridays 1:30 – 3:15 pm)

Dr. Fred Cheung, Tel.: 9639-6721, [fredhmcheung@gmail.com](mailto:fredhmcheung@gmail.com)

**\*For late add/drop application to the Registry, please use my CUHK email:**

**[fhmcheung@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:fhmcheung@cuhk.edu.hk)**

This course examines the development of the major Chinese schools of thoughts, such as Confucianism, Taoism/Daoism, and Legalism (pendulum cycle) as well as the main themes and events in Chinese history. The course also examines the greatness of Han and Tang as well as the dynastic imperial China and modern/20<sup>th</sup> century China (from ancient to modern).

## Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Comprehend the Chinese thought, especially Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism;
2. Understand the development and main themes in Chinese history;
3. Arouse the students' interests in Chinese history and culture.
1. Jan. 14, 2022 Introduction: Historical & Philosophical Background (Hsiao's *A History of Chinese Political Thought*. Introduction, pp. 3 – 27).  
Major Themes: The Theory of Pendulum or Cycle of Confucianism, Taoism/Daoism, and Legalism (The Intellectual Foundations in the Legacy of Ancient China). (Hsiao, Chapter I: Various Schools of Political Thought in the Pre-Ch'in Age, pp. 28-78).
2. Jan. 21 The Life and Times of Confucius (Hsiao, Chapter II: Confucius, 551-479 B.C., pp. 79-142; and Lau, D.C., tr. *Confucius: The Analects*. Introduction, vii-xlix) and Mencius & Hsun Tzu/Xunzi.
3. Jan. 28 The Thought of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu (Hsiao, Chapter V: Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu, pp. 273-318; and Lau, tr. *Tao Te Ching*, Introduction, ix-xl). [Feb. 4 HOLIDAY]
4. Feb. 11 Legalism in the Ch'in/Qin and Han Dynasties (Hsiao, Chapter VIII, pp. 427-468).  
Confucianism, the Yin-Yang School, & Legalism in Han China, and the Nature of Disillusionment of the Later Han Thinkers (*Cambridge History of China*, Vol. 1: The Ch'in & Han Empires. Chapter XV: Confucian, Legalist, and Taoist Thought in Later Han, pp. 766-807).
5. Feb. 18 Mid-term (50%)
6. Feb. 25 (Traditional Chinese Medicine), Sui and Tang Dynasties
7. Mar. 4 The Greatness of Tang China (*Cambridge History of China*)
8. Mar. 11 The Prosperities and Weaknesses of the Song Dynasties and the Mongol Yuan Dynasty
9. Mar. 18 The Centralized Government of the Ming Dynasty

10. Mar. 25 The Rise and Fall of the Ch'ing/Qing China (Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*)
11. Apr. 1 – Apr. 9: Reading Week
12. [Apr. 15 HOLIDAY]
13. Apr. 22 Modern China in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*);  
Modern China in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: 1911 Revolution, the Sian Incident, 1936,  
and the establishment of the Peoples' Republic of China (Hsu, *The Rise of  
Modern China*)
14. Centralized Examination (to be arranged by the RES)

**Assessment Method:**

Mid-term Quiz	50%
Centralized Final Exam.	50%

**Main References:**

- \*Confucius. *The Analects*. Tr. by D.C. Lau. 2nd ed. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1992.
- \*Mencius. *Mencius*. Tr. by D.C. Lau. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1984.
- \*Lao Tzu. *Tao Te Ching*. Tr. by D.C. Lau. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1982.
- Cambridge History of China*. Vol.1: The Ch'in and Han Empires.  
Eds. by Denis C. Twitchett & Michael Loewe. Cambridge:  
Cambridge U. Press, 1986.
- Hsu, Immanuel. *The Rise of Modern China*. Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2000.
- \*Mote, Frederick W. *Intellectual Foundations of China*. 2nd ed., New York:  
McGraw-Hill, 1989.

**Keywords:** Chinese history, Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism, modern China.