

CHIN317.01 CHINESE CIVILIZATION
THE HUMAN-ANIMAL CONNECTION

Winter 2012

Instructor: Claire Huot

Lecture times: Tuesday & Thursday, 14:00 to 15:15

Room: EDC 280 (room change requested)

Office hours: Tues & Thurs, 13:00 -13:45; and by appointment: chuot@ucalgary.ca

Office: Craigie Hall, C 104

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Course Description

The study of the varied interactions between humans and other animals offers an alternative, environmental way to understand China's civilization and culture. From the onset, animals have worked with humans in the making of China's agrarian civilization, as well as in times of war. Animals figure prominently in the written system itself and in the traditional worldview. There will also be a focus on particular species that define China's cultural specificities.

Objectives of the Course

Through the study of working, companion, and commodity animals, the student will get insights into Chinese civilization that are historically based and informed by material culture.

The study of the animal as a figure in writing, art and classification will further contribute to the understanding of China's traditional worldview.

Required Readings

All required readings are contained in the "CHIN317.01 W2012" course pack, which is for sale at the bookstore of the University of Calgary.

Assignments and Evaluation

5 quizzes: 40% (5 quizzes x 8%);

2 reports: 40% (1st =15%; 2nd = 25%);

1 final exam: 20% (5 questions x 4%).

The five quizzes are multiple choice and/or answers in a few words on material discussed in class up to the quiz.

- **Dates: Jan. 26; Feb. 16; March 8; March 22; April 10**

The two reports are brief (600-word) essays on *one* topic of your choice. It can focus on one animal; or on one issue or field. The second report is based on the first one and is more of an in-depth study.

- **Dates: Feb. 28; April 12**

The **final exam** is a registrar-scheduled final examination composed of five questions based on all the material studied in class and the required readings.

- **Date: TBA, usually during the two weeks following end of classes.**

Grading System

A+ (96-100); A (92-95); A- (86-91);
B+ (81-85); B (77-80); B- (71-76);
C+ (65-70); C (62-64); C- (59-61);
D+ (55-58); D (50-54);
F (0-49).

- N.B:**
1. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
 2. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.
 3. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca
 4. Making and receiving calls on cell phones are not allowed in class. During quizzes and exams, no electronic device is allowed.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1 (Jan. 10 & 12)

Civilization is not strictly a human affair. Animals are cultural, too.

Required reading: Ritvo, Harriet. "Animal Planet;" Cheng, Meiling, "Animalworks in China."

Week 2 (Jan. 17 & 19)

The crucial importance of animals in the Chinese written system and China's traditional worldview.

Required reading: Chaves, Jonathan. "The legacy of Ts'ang Chieh: The written word as magic;" Wieger, L. *Chinese Characters: Their origin, etymology, history, classification and signification* [Lessons 132-142].

Week 3 (Jan. 24 & 26)

Material culture at the beginning of Chinese history.

Required reading: Rutt, Richard. "The background: Bronze Age China."

Jan. 26: Quiz #1

Week 4 (Jan. 31 & Feb. 2)

Philosophical schools and their positions on nature and living beings.

Required reading: Graham, Angus C. “The Nung-Chia ‘School of the Tillers’; Zhuangzi, “Joy of Fish”; Liezi, “Feeding Monkeys.”

Week 5 (Feb. 7 & 9)

Feb. 7: Researching your topic. Librarian Rosvita Vaska demonstrates how to find sources for your assignments.

Feb. 9: Animals as exotica and tribute, especially during the Han and Tang dynasties.

Required reading: Schafer, Edward H. “Furs & Feathers.”

Week 6 (Feb. 14 & 16)

Daily life in urban China during the 13th century

Required reading: Gernet, Jacques. “Housing, Clothing, Cooking.”

Feb. 16: Quiz #2

Week 7 (Feb. 21 & 23) NO CLASSES: READING WEEK

Week 8 (Feb. 28 & March 1)

Horses in times of peace and war.

Required reading: Olsen, Stanley J. “The Horse in Ancient China and Its Cultural Influence in Some Other Areas.” [excerpts]; *The Travels of Marco Polo, the Venetian.* [excerpts]

Feb. 28: Submission of 1st report

Week 9 (March 6 & 8)

Chinese classification system: the lion is not a cat, but a dog

Required reading: Elvin, Mark. “Science and Superfauna.”

March 8: Quiz #3

Week 10 (March 13 ONLY)

The dog’s demotion in Chinese culture: from central to abject figure

Required reading: Epstein, H. “Dog.” *Domestic Animals of China.*

No classes on March 15: instructor away at a conference

Week 11 (March 20 & 22)

An irreplaceable animal in Asian civilizations: the water buffalo

Required reading: Clutton-Brock, Juliet. "Asiatic Cattle, excluding the zebu."
March 22: Quiz #4

Week 12 (March 27 & 29)

Silk: of worms and "little people"

Required reading: Wood, Frances. *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, 9-35; Dettenhofer, Maria H. "Eunuchs, Women, and Imperial Courts."

Week 13 (April 3 & 5)

The scholars and animals: why the gibbon?

Required reading: Van Gulik, R. H. *The Gibbon in China: An Essay in Chinese Animal Lore*, 75-96; Tuan, Yi-Fu. "Animal Pets: Cruelty and Affection."

Week 14 (April 10 & 12)

Ecology, mythology and traditional ways today

Required reading: Luxun. *Old Stories Retold*: "Flight to the Moon;" Dikötter, Frank. "Race as Culture: Historical Background;" Smith, S. A. "Talking Toads and Chinless Ghosts: The Politics of "Superstitious" Rumors in the People's Republic of China, 1961-1965," 405-417; Mainka, Susan A. and Judy A. Mills. "Wildlife and Traditional Chinese Medicine: Supply and Demand for Wildlife Species."

April 10: Quiz #5

April 12: Submission of 2nd report

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca