

COURSE DETAIL

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF CHINA

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Yonsei University

Program(s)

Yonsei University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

106

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF CHINA

UCEAP Transcript Title

CHINA CIVILIZATION

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course, via an emphasis on analytical thinking rather than memorization, introduces the major developments in ancient Chinese history from early human settlements to the fall of the Han dynasty (ca. 2000 BCE-220 CE). We explore the rise of early states, the growth of bronze-age cultures, the formation of imperial government, and the spread of classical philosophies.

The course also examines the role of nomadic societies, especially the Xiongnu and their early predecessors, in shaping the political and cultural landscape of early China.

Students learn to analyze both archaeological evidence and historical texts to better understand how ancient Chinese and steppe civilizations interacted and co-evolved.

Students are encouraged to engage critically with historical sources and debates, and to focus on interpretation, context, and historical reasoning rather than factual recall. The goal is to understand the formation and structure of ancient Chinese civilization. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the political, social, and ideological development of ancient China from the Neolithic period to the Han empire. Emphasis is placed on the formation of centralized states, classical philosophical traditions, and the institutional foundations of early empires. Students also analyze interactions between sedentary and nomadic societies. Through the case of the Xiongnu and their predecessors, students explore the dynamics between the Chinese states and the steppe world. The course emphasizes frontier politics, military confrontation, cultural exchange, and the construction of regional order in early East Asia.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HIS3401

Host Institution Course Title

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF CHINA

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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