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< >	Oriental History I-E2 Oriental History I-E2		FORTE Erika
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Course topic: "Themes in Ancient Chinese History. Part I: From the Early Dynasties to the End of the Tang Period   (c. 21st century BCE to 10th century CE)."
This course is designed to explore ancient Chinese history by delving into specific themes pertinent to each historical era, ranging from the semi-mythical Xia   , the Shang   , and the Zhou   dynasties (c. 21st-8th century BCE) to the decline of the Tang   Empire (618-906). Through readings on specialized topics and class discussions, students will gain insights into the significant developments within the social, religious, and intellectual facets of ancient Chinese history.

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Develop an understanding of Chinese culture within its historical context. Acquire the ability to recognize and analyze major issues and significant events, while concurrently establishing a coherent timeline of ancient Chinese history.

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1. General Introduction to the Course
2. China's History: Timeline, Methodology, and Sources
3. The Xia   Dynasty Question
4. The Shang   Dynasty and the Oracle Bones Inscriptions
5. The Zhou   Dynasty and the Ideology of Heaven's Mandate
6. Philosophers and warriors in Spring and Autumn to Warring States Periods
7. The Power of the Law in the First Empire of Qin Shi Huangdi
8. The Han   Dynasty and the Shaping of Chinese Tradition
9. Period of Fragmentation (220-581): North and South Cultural Approaches
10 + 11. Museum Visit (Equivalent to Two Classes, Held on June)
12. The Impact of Buddhism in China
13. The Cosmopolitan Tang   China
14. Summary
   Final Exams
15. Feedback (Upon Request)

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Attendance and participation are required.
Evaluation is determined by the following components:
Preparation and participation in class activities, as well as active engagement in class discussions (20%);
Participation in the museum excursion and related activities, including the submission of a short report (30%);
 Performance on the final exam (a multiple-choice test) (50%).

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Relevant literature will be announced in class. Additional learning material will be made available on PandA.

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Patricia Buckley Ebrey   The Cambridge Illustrated History of China, 2nd edition   Cambridge University Press   ISBN:9780521124331
Valerie Hansen   The Open Empire. A History of China to 1600   Norton
These are just a few recommendations for establishing a general historical background. These books are accessible at the Kyoto University libraries. Additional materials will be supplied during the course, including useful website links and readings.

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Students will be provided with the relevant literature of the topic taught for reviewing the lessons.
Class activities may necessitate prior preparation or subsequent follow-up, often including small research assignments or readings for in-class discussion.
As part of the course, there is an excursion for a museum visit, typically scheduled on a weekend day in June (either a Sunday or a Saturday, depending on the museum). This excursion usually takes about 2 to 3 hours, and the exact date will be announced in class. Please note that this excursion is equivalent to two class sessions and entails the submission of a short report.
Final exam preparation is based on provided materials and class notes.

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Students are received for inquiries by appointment.
Students participating in the museum visit should have the "Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research" (   ) coverage.
While entrance tickets for the museum visit are provided, students are responsible for their transportation expenses.