Course title: A Critical Cultural History of China
Course code: CHES 310/6002 CCSS 3411
Lesson: TUTO Friday 8:30am-9:15am
       LECT Friday 9:30am-11:15am
Professor: John Lagerwey

Course definition: This course will focus on four moments of transformational change in Chinese cultural history: the Warring States (481-221 BCE); the Period of Division (220-589 CE); Song-Yuan (960-1368); modern China (1850-present). The first laid the social and cultural foundations for the emergence of the bureaucratic empire; the second saw the Buddhist “conquest” of China and the emergence of an opposition between elite and popular culture; the third witnessed new forms of the Three Teachings—Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism—as well as state recognition of popular religion; the fourth is characterized by an ongoing search for a uniquely Chinese mode of modernity.

**Topic 1 Intellectual Change in the Warring States**

Lecture 1 September 11 The Attack on Shamanism

Lecture 2 September 18 The Emergence of Self-Cultivation Practice

Lecture 3 September 25 The Philosophical Preparation of Political Unity

**Topic 2 The Religious Transformation of China During the Period of Division**

Lecture 4 October 9 Scriptures

Lecture 5 October 16 Literature

Lecture 6 October 23 Sacred Geography

Topic 3 Religion and Thought in the Song, Jin, and Yuan
Lecture 7 October 30 State Religion

Lecture 8 November 6 Daoism in the Song and Jin

Lecture 9 November 13 Buddhism in the Song

Lecture 10 November 20 Confucianism in the Song

Topic 4 Structuring Values 1850-2015
Lecture 11 November 27 Science

Lecture 12 December 4 Gender

Course Assessment

The instructions below are for CHES 6002; students in CHES 3105 or CCSS 3411 must do only one 15-minute oral presentation and all four take-home tests. Note that double credit essays are reserved for students in CHES 6002.
1. Two 15-minute oral presentations of tutorial readings: 28% (14% each).
   Students should prepare a one- or two-page written presentation to hand in and a powerpoint so as to make it easier for fellow students to follow their presentation.
2. 4 take-home tests: soft copy to be sent to my email johnl@cuhk.edu.hk; hard copy (with numbered pages!) to be handed in at the start of class on October 2, October 23, and November 20; the fourth test should be placed in my mailbox by noon on December 7: 72% (18% each).
   The questions to be answered will be distributed at least one week in advance and will be based entirely on the required readings: they are designed to test your understanding of the readings.

Course assignments: please follow the CUHK rules concerning submission:
1. Each student must upload a soft copy of the completed assignment to the plagiarism detection engine CUPIDE, at the URL: http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student
2. The system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty, which is the same as that in http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/p09.htm . The declaration should be signed, and the receipt stapled to a hard copy of the assignment, which should be handed in as described above.