

Culture and Literature of Ancient China



CHIN 3321

3 credits – Fall 2017

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

KTCH 1B84

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This course, taught in English, introduces the foundational period of Chinese Civilization, i.e. the first historical dynasties and the early empire (14th–1st c. BCE). We will study the developments that led to the formation of the Chinese empire and read and discuss the literature of that time. Readings include some of the most famous philosophical texts of the Chinese tradition, e.g. the Daoist classic *Daodejing* (aka *Tao Te King* or *Laozi/Lao-tzu*) and *Lunyu*, a collection of sayings of Confucius and his students. Texts like these and others form the core of Chinese cultural identity to the present day.

