Course Description:

This course surveys the archaeology of China from the Paleolithic (ca. 1 million years before present) up to and including the Shang Dynasty (ca. 1050 BC), with an emphasis on the emergence of complex societies during the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (late third to late second millennium BC). The class will focus both on specific, detailed discussions of some of the most important archaeological finds from China, as well as more general discussions of various anthropological themes as they relate to data from early Chinese contexts. The lectures are generally organized in chronological order, starting in Week 2 with the Paleolithic and subsequently focusing on the early and Later Neolithic and the Shang period of the Bronze Age. Students will develop a thorough familiarity with Chinese archaeological sites and cultures over the course of this term and also explore the way that Chinese archaeology relates to general issues in anthropological archaeology.

Important themes covered in the class include the emergence and migration of modern hominids, the origins of agriculture, animal domestication, and sedentary villages, early urbanism, changes in burial practices and religion, ritual, writing, and production, and the development of complex society. The course will provide students with a basic understanding of these topics in the context of early China. Discussion sections will review the lecture material and focus on clarifying, deconstructing and debating topics in Chinese archaeology about which there is little consensus. We will also introduce you to some of the Chinese materials in museum collections at Harvard.

In addition, lectures on archaeology in East Asia will take place on some Fridays at noon in the Department of Anthropology. These lectures will provide students an opportunity to hear about active research in East Asian Archaeology in general, and will also be a venue for student presentations at the end of the term.
Requirements and Policies:

Your course grade will be based on the following:

- Participation: 10%
- Short Assignments: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Research Paper and presentation: 30%

Students are expected to attend all lectures and sections and participate in discussion. Readings should be completed prior to the class date on which they are assigned. Additional readings and related web sites will also be provided for each week as a starting point for research topics, but students are encouraged to seek out other scholarly sources on the various subjects – particularly for the research papers. More references including relevant readings in Chinese and other languages are available on request from the instructor.

Readings will be discussed during the section classes and sections will also frequently involve organized debates about controversial issues. Exams will involve material from both the required readings and from the lectures. In addition, two short assignments will be given that comprise the “short assignment” part of the grade. A 15-20 page research paper will be due during the reading period. The topic of this paper is open but should develop themes addressed in lectures and discussions. You should consult the instructor before deciding on a final topic. The paper should incorporate readings from the course syllabus in addition to other sources. We will equally consider content and style in the grading of this paper. Please do not wait until the last week to research and write this assignment.

Note on Required Readings:

There is no adequate textbook in English that covers the topic of this course. We will be reading most of the out of print opus on Chinese Archaeology by K.C. Chang: Chang, K.C. (1986) The Archaeology of Ancient China (4th Edition). New Haven: Yale University Press. (AAC)

And several chapters of:

Copies of these books will be on reserve at Tozzer Library along with copies of the other recommended course readings.
Schedule of Classes

WEEK 1:

1. (W, Feb. 2, 2005) **Introduction:**
   **Readings:** (Approx. 17 pages)

   (F, Feb. 4, 2005) – NO SECTION

WEEK 2:

2. (M, Feb. 7, 2004) **History of Chinese Archaeology**
   **Readings:** (Approx. 49 pages)

3. (W, Feb. 9, 2004) **Fundamentals: Chinese geography, environment, and chronology**
   **Readings:** (Approx. 47 pages)

   **Week 2 Section:** MAP QUIZ (part of short assignment portion of grade). Preliminaries: Romanization systems, historiography and sources.

   **FRIDAY FEB. 11, 12:00 pm, Li Yung-ti Lecture (Peabody 14A)**

WEEK 3:

4. (M, Feb. 14, 2004) **Chinese Paleolithic: Important discoveries, sites, and fossils**
   **Readings:** (Approx. 69 pages)

   For a website detailing many of the finds from Paleolithic China and also offering position papers on related topics see: [http://www.chineseprehistory.org/](http://www.chineseprehistory.org/)
Readings: (Approx. 61 pages)

**Week 3 Section:** Debate: replacement vs. continuity in the Chinese Paleolithic.

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**WEEK 4:**

6. (M, Feb. 21, 2004) NO CLASS – Presidents’ Day

Readings: (Approx. 75 pages)

**Week 4 Section:** Discussion: Why did people settle down in East Asia? What changes occurred in the shift to sedentism and food production? What is the nature of the evidence for the origin of agriculture and early villages in China and how does this differ regionally?

**FRIDAY FEB. 25, 12:00 pm, Gideon Shelach Lecture (Peabody 14A)**

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**WEEK 5:**

Readings: (Approx. 22 pages)
Yuan Jing and Rowan Flad (Forthcoming). Research on Early Horse Domestication in China.

9. (W, Mar. 2, 2004) Middle Neolithic: North and South China
Readings: (Approx. 85 pages)
Week 5 Section: What sort of regional diversity characterizes the Middle Neolithic of China? Could you predict, based on information about the Hongshan, Liangzhu, Yangshao, Dawenkou, Daxi, and other regional cultures where complex societies would emerge?

Friday March 4, 12:00 pm, Ofer Bar Yosef Lecture (Peabody 14A)

Week 6:

10. (W, Mar. 7, 2004) Late Neolithic - The core, periphery, and the Longshan interaction sphere
Readings: (Approx. 137 pages)

11. (W, Mar. 9, 2004) NO CLASS

Week 6 Section: Visit Sackler Museum – Jades and Ceramics

Week 7:

Readings: (Approx. 81 pages)

Readings: (Approx. 70 pages)

Wednesday March 16, 12:15 pm, Rowan Flad Lecture (Putnam Lab)

Week 7 Section: Midterm review

Friday March 18, 12:00 pm, Josh Wright Lecture (Peabody 14A)
WEEK 8:


15. (W, Mar. 23, 2004) Urbanism (SHORT ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT)
Readings: (Approx. 30 pages)

Week 8 Section: NO SECTION

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK Mar. 26 – Apr. 3

WEEK 10:

16. (M, Apr. 4, 2004) Erlitou and related sites

Readings: (Approx. 72 pages)

17. (W, Apr. 6, 2004) Early Shang: The Shang Period Walled Sites at Erligang, Yanshi, and Huanbei

Readings: (Approx. 51 pages)

Week 10 Section: SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE. Debate: Was the Xia an historical dynasty or not?

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 12:00 pm, Shao Wangping Lecture (Peabody 14A)

WEEK 11:

18. (M, Apr. 11, 2004) Late Shang: The Last Shang Capital of Yinxu located in Anyang, Henan and Shang Social Structure

Readings: (Approx. 191 pages)


Readings: (Approx. 62 pages)

Week 11 Section: What are the origins and stimuli for writing in early China? Discuss early Chinese writing, oracle bones. Do symbols on late Neolithic pottery constitute writing? OB Translation Exercise.

FRIDAY APRIL 15, 12:00 pm, Geoff Cunnar Lecture (Peabody 14A)

WEEK 12:

Readings: (Approx. 61 pages)

Week 12 Section: Discussion about the evidence for Shamanism in early Chinese society. What does this evidence suggest about the origins of the state in China? Divination experiments!
Readings: (Approx. 13 pages)

FRIDAY APRIL 22, 12:00 pm, Li Feng Lecture (Peabody 14A)

WEEK 13:

Readings: (Approx. 67 pages)
Readings: (Approx. 70 pages)

**Week 13 Section:** Visit Sackler - Bronzes

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Readings: (Approx. 193 pages – skim through to get overall picture)

Readings:
* "Declaration on the Importance and Value of Universal Museums," (Document Signed by Directors of 19 Western Museums).
* UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (Rome, 24 June 1995)
A website that lists a large number of links related to archaeology, antiquities, theft and looting is found at: [http://www.museum-security.org/artifacts-saz.htm](http://www.museum-security.org/artifacts-saz.htm)
For a website that includes articles discussing looting and the Three Gorges Dam project in China see: [http://www.irn.org/programs/threeg/pr980511.html](http://www.irn.org/programs/threeg/pr980511.html)

**Week 14 Section:** Paper Presentations