

**LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Type of change: New course.

2. Course Description:

HIW 722: History of Chinese Civilization. *3 hours, 3 credits.*

A cultural history of China, focusing on different ways different people have attempted to characterize Chinese civilization. Focus on religion, labor, foreign relations, and daily life from the advent of writing to the present.

3. Rationale:

The course has previously been offered as a “topics” course, and there continues to be student interest. In addition, the course allows graduate students to study a classical tradition outside of Europe, one which figures prominently in high school curricula for Social Studies.

4. Learning Outcomes:

- Describe and explain major changes to the Chinese polity from ca. 2000 BCE to present.
- Identify historical causes of common misperceptions of China, in particular those that ascribe to China a timeless, monolithic “civilization.”
- Locate primary sources from at least three different historical periods, describe the context in which each source appeared, and explain likely biases or limitations of each source.
- Write a paper evaluating the arguments in a major historiographical debate about China and presenting students’ own views.
- Formulate a question about Chinese history and answer the question based on critical readings of both primary and secondary sources.

5. Date of Departmental Approval: February 10, 2014