

1 **World History I**

HIST 1210

Elizabeth Dachowski

edachowski@tnstate.edu

2 **Neolithic China (c. 5000 BCE)**

- Rivers:
 - Yellow (Huang)
 - Yangtzi (Chang)
- Monsoons.

–

3 **Neolithic China (c. 5000 BCE)**

- Archaeological evidence
 - Buildings
 - Defensive ditches
 - Pottery and other household objects
 - Tools
 - Remains from processing food and silk.

–

4 **Neolithic China (c. 5000 BCE)**

- Hunting and fishing
- Domesticated animals
 - Dogs, pigs sheep, cattle; later chickens
- Agriculture
 - slash and burn
 - wheat, millet, barley; later rice in south .

5 **Neolithic China (c. 5000 BCE)**

- Silk
- Pottery
 - hand-fashioned (not on wheel)
 - pottery wheel.

6 **China: Early Dynasties**

- Xia Dynasty (before 1700 BCE)
 - Long thought to be legendary but archaeological evidence exists
 - Stories of Yellow Emperor
 - Stories of degradation of later rulers.

–

–

7 **Shang Dynasty (c. 1784-c. 1050 BCE)**

- Kingship
 - descended from a god (Di)
 - responsible for prosperity of kingdom
 - war leader.

–

–

–

–

8 **Shang Dynasty (c. 1784-c. 1050 BCE)**

- Walled cities.

–

9 **Shang Dynasty (c. 1784-c. 1050 BCE)**

- Shamanistic religion, ancestor worship, belief in ghosts
- Oracle bones.

10 **Shang Oracle Bones**

- 39A. Crack-making on jimao (day 16), Que divined: "It will not rain."
- 39B. Crack-making on jimao, Que divined: "It will rain."
- (Prognostication:) The king read the cracks (and said): "If it rains, it will be on a ren-day."
- (Verification): On renwu (day 19), it really did rain.

11

12 **Shang Oracle Bones**

- What did the Shang kings and diviners care about?
 - Weather
 - Harvests
 - Rituals and offerings
 - Disasters (including military disasters)
 - Hunting
 - New settlements
 - Royal family (birth of child).

13 **China: Zhou Rise and Decline**








- Herders influenced by Shang culture
- Capture of Shang state in a single battle at Muye (legendary)
- Geographical shift to the north.

14 **China: Zhou Rise and Decline**

- Mandate of Heaven:
 - Ruler responsible for prosperity
 - Natural passing of a dynasty when no longer doing will of Heaven
- Fengjian (decentralized government).

15 **China: Zhou Rise and Decline**

- Problems of Later Zhou Dynasty
 - Weak central government
 - Strong local rulers
 - Pressure from nomads on borders
 - Internal factions at court

- Movement of court to east (Eastern Zhou).
- 16  **China: Zhou Rise and Decline**
 - Confucius (sixth century BCE)
 - Educated for bureaucracy (shi)
 - Looked back to age of Yellow Emperor (Xia Dynasty)
 - Disgusted with corruption and fragmentation of later Zhou government
- 17  **China: Zhou Rise and Decline**
 - Confucius (sixth century BCE)
 - Ideas for government
 - For common good
 - Ethical responsibility
 - Ideas adopted generations later.
- 18  **Review of Dynasties**
 - Xia Dynasty (semi-legendary)
 - Emperor/king as responsible for welfare
 - Ideal of public service
 - Shang Dynasty
 - Military bound by personal loyalty to emperor
 - Emperor as link with gods (sacrifices, divination)
 - Zhou Dynasty
 - Mandate of Heaven
 - Confucius.
- 19  **China: Cultural Developments**
 - Economy and agriculture
 - New crops: soybeans
 - Crop rotation (wheat and millet)
 - Ox-drawn plows and iron-tipped tools
 - Well-field system.
- 20  **China: Cultural Developments**
 - Economy and agriculture
 - Iron casting
 - Ranks in rural society
 - New classes
 - Shi (gentleman)
 - Merchants.
- 21  **China: Cultural Developments**
 - Elite women:
 - educated
 - influential
 - later women less directly in public life
 - Women's work
 - spinning
 - weaving
 - silk production
- 22  **China: Cultural Developments**
 - Religion
 - Shangdi (main god)
 - ancestor worship

- oracle bones
- offerings to ancestors
- human sacrifice (Xia and Shang; not Zhou)
- Tian=Heaven (Zhou; displaced Shangdi).