



## Course Overview

Modern China presents a dual image: a society transforming itself through economic development and infrastructure investment that aspires to global leadership; and the world's largest and oldest bureaucratic state, with multiple traditions in its cultural, economic, and political life. The modern society and state that is emerging in China bears the indelible imprint of China's historical experience, of its patterns of philosophy and religion, and of its social and political thought. These themes are discussed in order to understand China in the twenty-first century and as a great world civilization that developed along lines different from those of the Mediterranean. ChinaX introduces new features to make the riches of Harvard's visual collections and the expertise of its faculty more accessible to learners worldwide. We will engage intellectual and religious trends, material and political culture, the local diversity and the national unity, art and literature, and China's economic and political transformation—past, present and future.

## Lead Instructors

### Peter K. Bol

Charles H. Carswell Professor of East Asian Languages Civilizations, Harvard University  
Vice Provost for Advances in Learning

### William C. Kirby

T.M. Chang Professor of China Studies, Harvard University  
Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School  
Chairman of the Harvard China Fund

## Course Organization

ChinaX is organized into 9 “Mini-Courses” that span over 6,000 years of history. Each Mini-Course consists of 4 to 8 weekly “modules,” each with videos, readings, interactive engagements, assessments, and discussion forums. Together these will give you an understanding of institutional and cultural patterns in China from ancient times into the present, the choices China has made in the past, and the challenges it faces as a world power. The discussion forums are meant to allow you to develop your own approaches to history and to gain a critical appreciation of China's literary, philosophical, political and cultural resources.

## Earning a Certificate of Mastery

Learners that aim to earn a certificate of mastery for the ChinaX Course or certificate of mastery for each Mini-Course must receive an overall score of 75% or higher to qualify as a passing grade. While you are encouraged to participate in the discussion forums with your friends and fellow learners, you must do the assessments on your own, without consulting others. All required assessments must be completed before the end of the ChinaX Course. Each Mini-Course will remain open until the end of ChinaX.