

## Encyclopedia entry assignment

For this assignment we will be compiling an encyclopedia, with entries on important terms in early Chinese history. I would like each of you to pick six terms from the Ebrey reading. (Chapters 1-5 from Patricia Ebrey *China: A Cultural, Social and Political History* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006) These could be people, events, concepts, anything you think is important enough to justify a 500 word entry, but not too big to cover. There should be terms from each of the five chapters.

You will then pair up (or make a group of three) and write an entry for two of the terms your partner(s) picked. These should not be the same terms you picked. Each entry should be around 500 words, and should explain to readers what this thing is and why it is important. You will probably have to do a bit of research for this, although you should be able to find plenty of stuff in JSTOR, the things Ebrey lists as suggested readings, and even Wikipedia. We will talk about this in class, but I also encourage you to meet with me to talk about your research and writing.

I have posted a sample answers on Oracle Bones, Sunzi and Wu Zetian

The purpose of this assignment is for you all to get a broad exposure to early Chinese history (by reading Ebrey) and to work a bit on your research and writing skills.

### Grades and due dates

**Initial terms** -60 quiz points. Your grade will be based on how appropriate each of these is. Due by 1/30 at 11:00 pm Note that if you and your partner get this done early you can get started on the next part early.

**Your final entries** -10% of final grade Due by 2/13 at 11:00 pm

**Assessment of other's entries** -50 quiz points. You need to pick five entries by other students and rank them best to worst and explain what strong and weak points you think each one has..Due by 2/18