Summary of Results from Assessment Instrument for History 310: Imperial China

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*20 students responded to the assessment instrument, the results are as follows:

For Question 1: What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

19 grades assigned based on a 1-5 scale, 1 NG (no grade assigned)

Total: 81 points out of 95 possible

Average: 85.3%, or 4.26 out of 5

Comments from the first five responses:

1. Massive Construction and engineering project. I knew about it before I researched, but I think it helped me to know China better.
2. Woman in China, nothing! Procrastinated until last minute didn’t get to do assignment as well as I would have liked to.
3. Chinese Military Strategy. I kept the paper to the basic level but the actual research did improve my understanding.
4. I chose to research women in China. It really helped me to understand the differences between treatment in the past vs. today.
5. I chose China’s foreign policy and treatment of foreigners. Yes it did – I found more connections than I thought.

For Question 2: In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

19 grades assigned based on a 1-5 scale, 1 NG

Total: 86 points out of 95 possible

Average: 90.5% or 4.53 out of 5

Comments from the first five responses:

1. China’s huge population and density are making structure of the buildings bad and weak because they have to build many architectures.
2. Womens roles are the same although history portrays them a certain way I can’t imagine their treatment has changed b/c Chinese men treat women EXTREMELY well.
3. I determined that the core of military strategy has remained the same with only minor alterations.
4. That views of women have changed drastically today than they were in the past. It was pretty amazing.
5. China’s relationship with Japan is still rather rocky, and the people with Xiongnu ancestry in the north are still thought to be tall and stupid. Corruption is still rampant.

For Question 3: What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

18 grades assigned on a 1-5 scale, 2 NG
Total: 79 points out of 90 possible
Average: 87.8% or 4.39 out of 5

Comments from the first five responses:

1. I think I knew why China cannot beat Japan even though China became second in the world economy (GDP). I still don’t like China itself but I respect their old golden times (inventing many things)
2. Not Really Although I don’t like it when people who have never been to China talk about how China kills babies or is Bad b/c that is far from the reality of my experience there.
3. I learned that their military serves the same purpose as our won and that we are trying to accomplish the same objectives but from a different viewpoint. My perceptions are more or less the same as before (positive).
4. It made me realize that women are being treated fairly equal today in most parts of the world, including China.
5. I learned that the cycle of events in each dynasty – powerful emperor, good government, eunuchs in power, corruption, people not getting paid, overthrow – and can see a similar thing happening now in the United States. Maybe they’re all eunuchs?

Interpretation of the Results

With approval rates of 85%-90% for the three indexes, I see no reason to change my pedagogy in this class. The data clearly reflects that I am successfully encouraging students to analyze multiple perspectives on a given issue related to course content.
Research Paper Guidelines

This research assignment is intended to make students aware of events happening in the world today that are a continuation of themes discussed in the course HISTORY 310: IMPERIAL CHINA. I want you to compare and contrast a theme or issue from the Imperial era of Chinese history with what has been happening in China since the year 2000. The following SIX themes are:

- Massive Construction/Engineering Projects;
- Chinese Foreign Relations; Chinese Military Strategy;
- Environmental Impact from Human Behavior;
- The Role of Women in Chinese Society; Chinese Medical Practices

1) Sources of Information: Four (4) sources must be used in this exercise, and at least one (1) must be from a published book. As for internet sources, go on-line using any search engine to locate articles published about the topic you have selected. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source.

2) Turn in a hard copy of all internet sources used (up to 10 pages only!), and the cover page of a book. Make sure that the articles are not identical and come from different sources.

3) Your research paper must be 5 pages long (excluding bibliography and endnotes), double-spaced, numbered, using Courier New 12-point font, with 1” margins.

4) Use the following format to write your paper:
   First, in your opening paragraph, discuss the topic you have selected and why it intrigued you to research it. Second, describe the subject matter from the imperial era as well as what is occurring in the 21st century. This is the main body of your paper, wherein you supply evidence from the source materials you have found. This part of the paper should cover about four (4) pages of your report. Third, in your concluding paragraph(s), concisely summarize what you have learned as a result of this research, comparing and contrasting the imperial era with present-day events.

5) Be sure to cite your sources using ENDNOTES (not footnotes), for the Bibliography as well use the Chicago Style.

6) DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!!! Plagiarism is using someone else’s words and passing them off as your own. Do not copy complete paragraphs, sentences, or even parts of sentences and stick them in the research paper. This is a guaranteed way to receive a zero for the assignment. USE YOUR OWN WORDS!!! If you have any questions about the assignment, please feel free to contact me about it.
History 310 Imperial China (202 B.C. – 1800 A.D.)

Assessment of Research Assignment Winter Quarter 2010

The research assignment was designed to make students aware of events which are happening in China today that are a continuation of themes discussed in History 310 through multiple perspectives of analysis. Please answer the following questions and rate them according to the scale below:

5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

Rating:

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

Rating:

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

Rating:
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

Massive construction & engineering projects I knew about in before I researched, but I think it helped me to know China better.

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

China's huge population and density are making structure of the buildings bad and weak because they have to build many architectures.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

I think I knew why China cannot beat Japan even though China became the second in the world economy (GDP) I still don't like China itself but I respect their old golden times (inventing many things)

Rating: 5
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

Rating:  

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

Rating:  

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

Rating:  

I think it was a bad idea to try to communicate with people who have never even been to China. They think it is all about the money and power. But that is far from the truth. My experience was
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   Chinese Military Strategy. I kept the paper to the basic level but the actual research did improve my understanding.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   I determined that the core of military strategy has remained the same with only minor alterations.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   I learned that their military serves the same purpose as our own and that we are trying to accomplish the same objectives but from a different viewpoint. My perceptions are more or less the same as before (positive).

Rating: 5
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? I chose to research women in China. It really helped me understand the difference between treatment in the past vs. today.

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

That views of women have changed drastically today than they were in the past. It was pretty amazing.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

It made me realize that women are being treated fairly equal today in most parts of the world, including China.

Rating: 5
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5 = Excellent    4 = Good    3 = Average    2 = Below Average    1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   I chose China's foreign policy and treatment of foreigners. Yes it did- I found more connections than I thought I would.
   Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   China's relationship with Japan is still rather rocky, and the people with Xiongnu ancestry in the north are still thought to be tall and stupid. Corruption is still rampant.
   Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   I learned the cycle of events in each dynasty - powerful emperor, good government, eunuchs in power, corruption, people not getting paid, overthrow - and can see a similar thing happening now in the United States. Maybe they're all eunuchs?
   Rating: 5
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   Women in modern & Imperial China

Rating:

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   The role of women changed drastically

Rating:

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   The research impressed upon me the huge change China has gone through between these times

Rating:
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   Women in Chinese Culture from past to present

Rating:  5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   Women have obtained positions that were only designated for men

Rating:  5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   Different individuals have different outlooks in China based on their own experiences.

Rating:  5
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   The vilification of China in the eyes of the West. No.

   Rating:  3

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   Trade of thought between modern and Eastern power bases.

   Rating:  4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   The Atrocities of the PRC/PLA in Tibet. No.

   Rating:  3
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? Massive construction/engineering projects, the assignment helped that I was able to gain more facts that weren't discussed in class.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   I learned that China still likes to build things larger, taller to gain world recognition.

Rating: 4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   I learned that China was building a huge dam, they didn't care about cleaning up any pollutants from the construction site.

Rating: 3
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Assessment of Research Assignment Winter Quarter 2010

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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? I looked at architecture & building from the Great Wall to the Bird’s Nest Olympic stadium. I learned a lot about modern China indeed; it was interesting.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time? I discovered that quality had diminished slightly because of too much demand to allow for large amounts of time to make things really well. But Chinese still really care about looking good to other countries.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

I learned all about how they built the Bird’s Nest stadium and the several complexities involved in it. It didn’t really change my perception of China; I already knew they were technologically advanced.

Rating: 4
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   
   Medicine, Yes

   Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   
   Chinese medicine became a "unified theory" only after pressure from western medicine.

   Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

   It was interesting to learn how the communist government changed its position on TCM.

   Rating: 5
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

Construction/Eng. Projects

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

That China continues to be a leader and innovator in the field of construction/Eng.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

I learned about the massive new projects China is doing. I was amazed at the scale and beauty of these new projects as well as how quickly China is completing them.

Rating: 5
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

   Human impact on the environment; yes it did. I never knew how bad the pollution was in China.

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

   The land used to be able to support the population, but due to lack of proper farming and industrial practices have destroyed it.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

   I always thought of China being very advanced, but there environmental protection is way behind the U.S.

Rating: 5
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

*Women's Roles, the assignment did help me learn more about this.*

Rating: 3

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

*Women are still repressed but not nearly as much.*

Rating: 4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

*I learned how women are treated in China today.*

Rating: 3
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5 = Excellent   4 = Good   3 = Average   2 = Below Average   1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?

Women's role's in Imperial China compared with Modern day China

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

Women have always been respected because of their special skills including concubines and prostitutes

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

I learned a lot about the evolution of knowledge gained through the upbringing and power of women through time.

Rating: 6
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? I researched foreign policy and learned tons about the subject. It was interesting to learn a lot more about trade in China and how many different countries are involved.

Rating: 5

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time? The corruption and power thirst in China has not changed at all.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

I learned a lot about my heritage being part Chinese and it greatly changed my perception of China.

Rating: 5
History 310 Imperial China (202 B.C. – 1800 A.D.)

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5 = Excellent  4 = Good   3 = Average  2 = Below Average   1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? I chose the "Militaristic strategies..." Yes, the assignment did help me understand better through research.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

I got to see the adaptation of weapons and how the armies functioned as a whole.

Rating: 5

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China? I just learned how large their military is, so vast, always has been and always will be. But no, my perception hasn't changed.

Rating: 3
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? Role of women in Chinese society; and yes it did help me understand it.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

   Women had always sought uplift even under a Confucian framework

Rating: 4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

   That Chinese women are tenacious and hard-working.

Rating: 4
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1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly? Women's rights in Imperial China

   Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?

   Many things, I really didn't know anything before

   Rating: 4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?

   Rating:
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5 = Excellent  4 = Good  3 = Average  2 = Below Average  1 = Poor

1) What theme did you choose to research, and did the assignment help you to understand it more thoroughly?
   I chose the Great Wall of China.

Rating: 4

2) In comparing and contrasting your theme from the Imperial Era to present day, what did you discover had or had not changed over time?
   It showed me that they have continued throughout the years to keep control over their people and territory.

Rating: 4

3) What did you personally learn from the event researched and did it change in any way your perception of China?
   I learned that China has continually tried to put up barriers between China and the rest of the world. No, it has not changed my perception.

Rating: 4