APWH Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 2 – Classical Civilization: China

1. According to Confucius, who should hold leadership positions? What skills and talents should leaders in this society develop?

***Establishment of Political Order***

1. Put in order the “classical” Chinese dynasties (which followed the rule of the Shang) that emerged. Which was most successful in consolidating Chinese civilization?
2. Describe the political system put in place by the Han dynasty.

***Patterns in Classical China***

1. What is a dynasty? Explain the “dynastic cycle.”
2. What is the Middle Kingdom? What crop was grown in the north, and what crop was grown in the south?
3. Explain the “Mandate of Heaven.”
4. From which dynasty does China get its name? Describe the ruling style of this dynasty.
5. What monumental structure was built under the Qin dynasty? What was its purpose?
6. How was the Han dynasty’s ruling style different from the Qin’s? How was it similar?
7. What philosophy did the Han dynasty embrace?
8. What factors led to the decline of the Han dynasty?

***Political Institutions***

1. What factor more than any other explains China’s historic success in ruling vast territory?
2. What was the process of becoming a scholar-bureaucrat? From which class were bureaucrats typically drawn? Why?

***Religion and Culture***

1. While the Chinese bureaucracy reinforced Confucianism (beginning with the Han dynasty), was it tolerant of other philosophies and/or religious beliefs? Explain.
2. Why did Confucianism become more prominent than a specific religion in China?
3. What were the main virtues stressed by Confucian doctrine?
4. Contrast Legalism to Confucianism. How did Legalist’s view of human nature influence their views on the proper style one should use to govern?
5. Why did polytheism continue to be popular among the peasant class in China? Did this conflict with Confucianism?
6. What is Daoism, and what are its key components?
7. Do Confucianism and Daoism conflict? Explain.
8. What type of literature was especially valued in Chinese culture?
9. What form of writing became an art form in China?
10. What monumental structure remains one of China’s most famous? Why were so few monumental buildings constructed in China?
11. Describe China’s general approach to science and math. Which classical society developed a very different approach?

**Women in Patriarchal Societies**

1. Why was patriarchalism so pervasive in ancient and classical societies? What social classes tended to treat women with less inferiority? Why?
2. In what sphere did women find some opportunities to hold a certain level of power? In what way did they sometimes hold indirect power in the home?

***Economy and Society***

1. What occupation did most members of Chinese society hold at this time?
2. Who were “mean people?”
3. Make a pyramid indicating the social hierarchy in China (we will work on this in class as well; get in the habit of doing this when you study a new civilization).
4. Which class and which types of products drove most of the trade business? Why were merchants low in the social hierarchy?
5. List four technological advances developed by classical China. How did China’s technological advancements compare to other classical societies?
6. How did the family structure in China solidify and reinforce the larger social and political systems?
7. What is primogeniture?

***How Chinese Civilization Fits Together***

1. How did the Chinese view the “outside world?”
2. Even though Confucian officials believed in the fundamental goodness of humanity, they inflicted harsh punishments. Why?
3. What Chinese luxury good inspired the creation of an elaborate trade network?