



DR LI Meng

Lecturer

Confucius Institute of Hong Kong

**FH2CN05M**

**THE UNDERGROUND WORLD OF  
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA**  
**從地下文物看中華文明**

**June 30-July 12, 2024**

---





# Subject Description

This course introduces key features of the underground world of early imperial China based on underground architecture in Shaanxi Province, including religious sites, tombs and mausoleums. Students will be led to understand how archaeological excavations demonstrate the transformation of burial rites, religious beliefs in the afterlife, geomancy and everyday life, as well as cosmopolitanism and the cultural interaction between China and Eurasia countries throughout early and medieval China. The course introduces social customs such as the rites of passage in major regions and major dialect communities in China. It explores the reasons for differences in customs and rites across space and time and relates them to the characteristics and essence of Chinese culture.



# Learning Outcomes



- A. have basic knowledge of the historical development of burial rites and customs in China;
- B. develop aesthetic sensibility of the splendors of the underground world in ancient China;
- C. understand the philosophical and religious underpinning of afterlife in ancient China and how religious faiths are being reflected in the underground architectures;
- D. observe the cultural interaction between the medieval China and Eurasia countries;
- E. develop fieldwork, library and web-based research skills relevant to history, religion and archaeology.

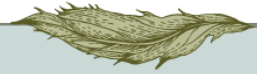


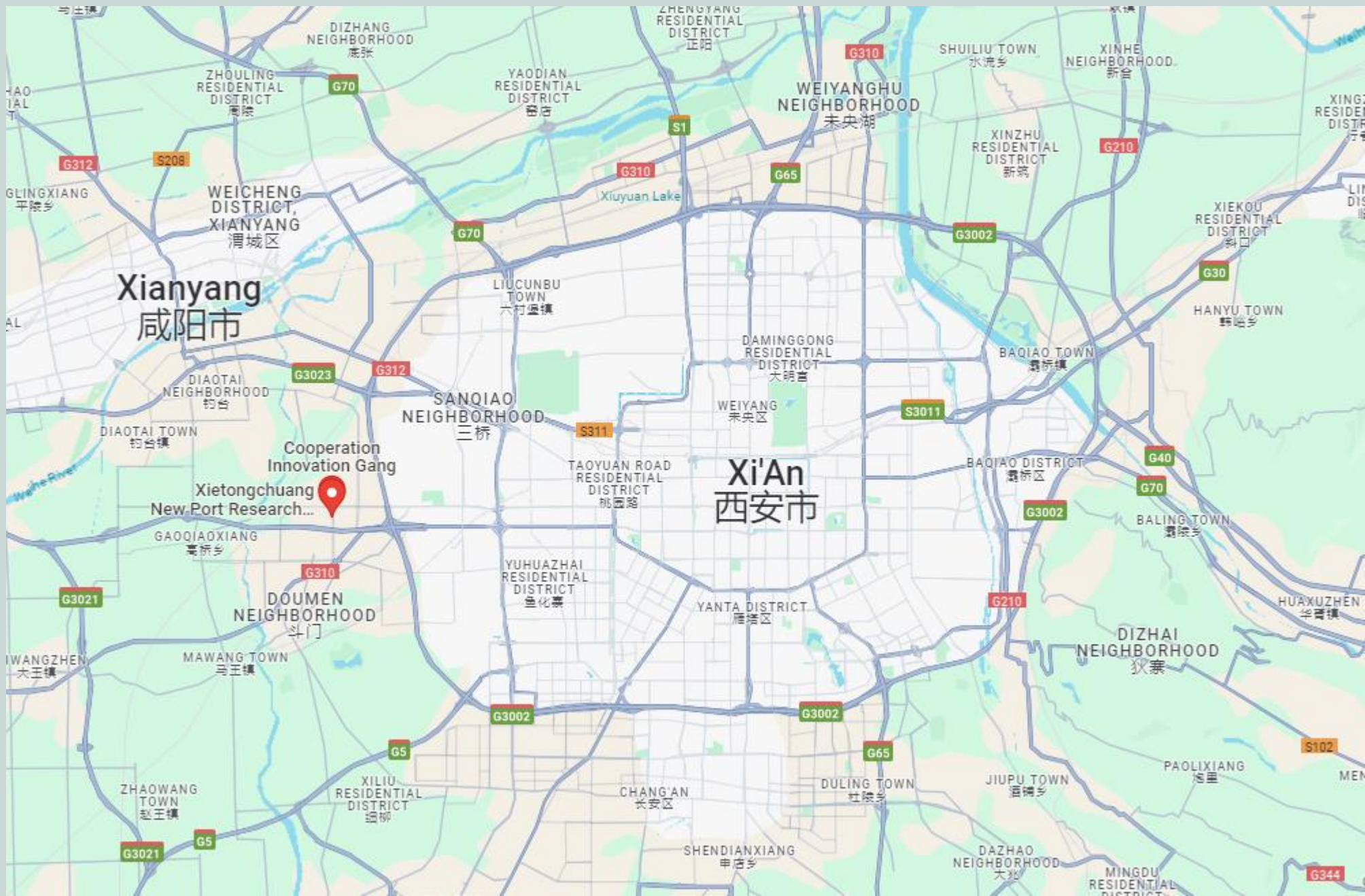
# Assessments



Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Graders	Dates and Deadlines
1. Individual oral presentation 15 minutes max for each)	20%	Dr LI Meng	To be held during tutorial hours in the second week in Xi'an. Topics will be assigned to the groups according to the lecture orders.
2. Final quiz (ONLINE, 50 MINUTES)	20%		<b>Open book online quiz with 20 multiple choice questions.</b> <b>Duration: 60 minutes.</b> To be completed after the Xi'an trip ends.
3. Term paper (2500-3500 words)	50%	Dr LI Meng	<b>Soft copies</b> to be submitted via Turnitin a week after the Xi'an trip ends.
4. Attendance in lectures and tutorials+ in-class activities	10%	Dr LI Meng	Please ensure your attendance in both lectures and tutorials.

Location: XJTU-POLIMI Joint School of Design and Innovation, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Iharbour, Xi'an  
西安交通大學創新港西安交大-米蘭理工聯合創新學院







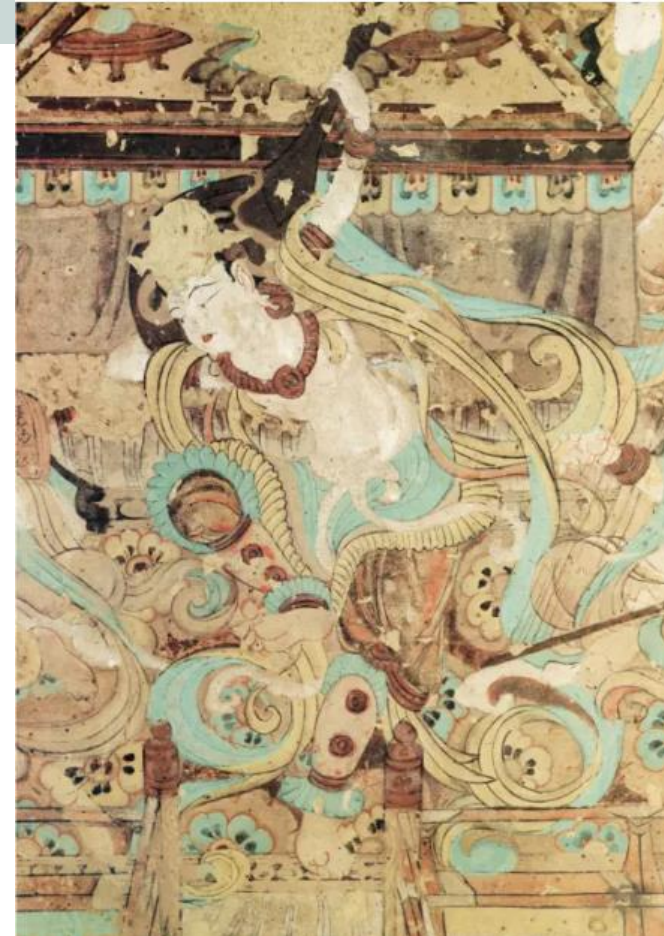
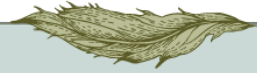
# Highlights and Cultural Visits



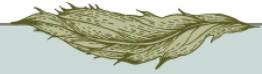


## Highlight of Sem 3, 2023-24

Guest Lecture by Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences:  
Technological Innovation in the Preservation of Frescos in Dunhuang Caves



# Shaanxi Archeology Museum and Xiangji Temple 陝西考古博物館及香積寺

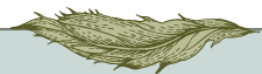


Link:

[https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1QX4y1J7Fj/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.999.0.0&vd\\_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1QX4y1J7Fj/?spm_id_from=333.999.0.0&vd_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b)

# Terra Cotta Warrior Museum

## 秦陵兵馬俑博物館



Link:

[https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1ku4y1m7e6/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.788.recommend\\_more\\_video.-1&vd\\_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1ku4y1m7e6/?spm_id_from=333.788.recommend_more_video.-1&vd_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b)

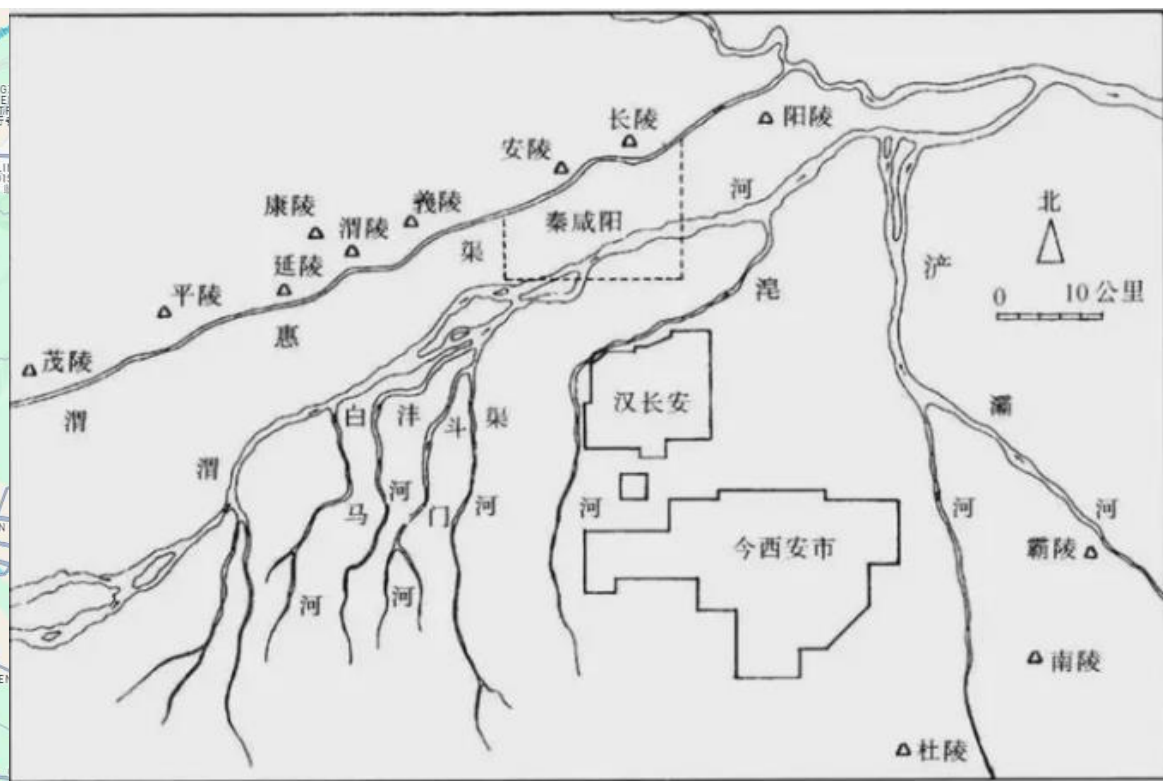
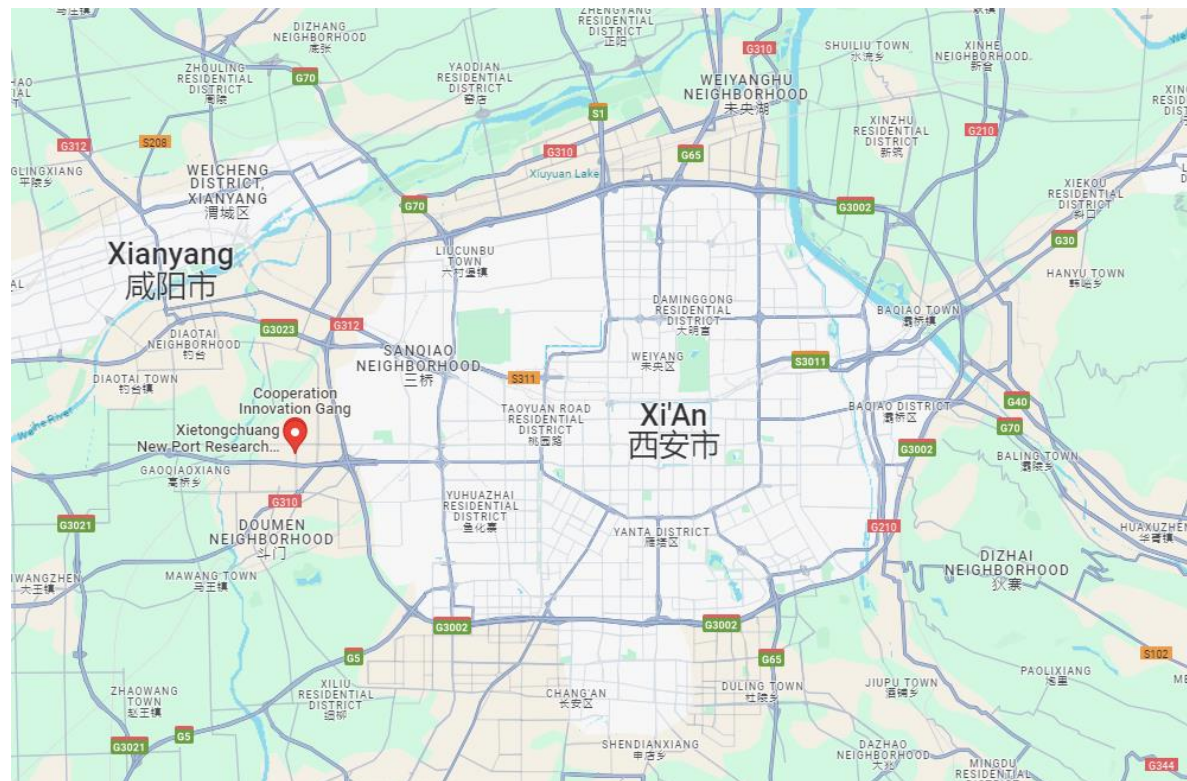
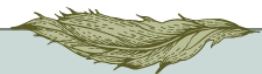
# July 10, 2023: Museum of Yangling Mausoleum of Emperor Jingding of Han 漢景帝陽陵及博物館



吳小文 何物越

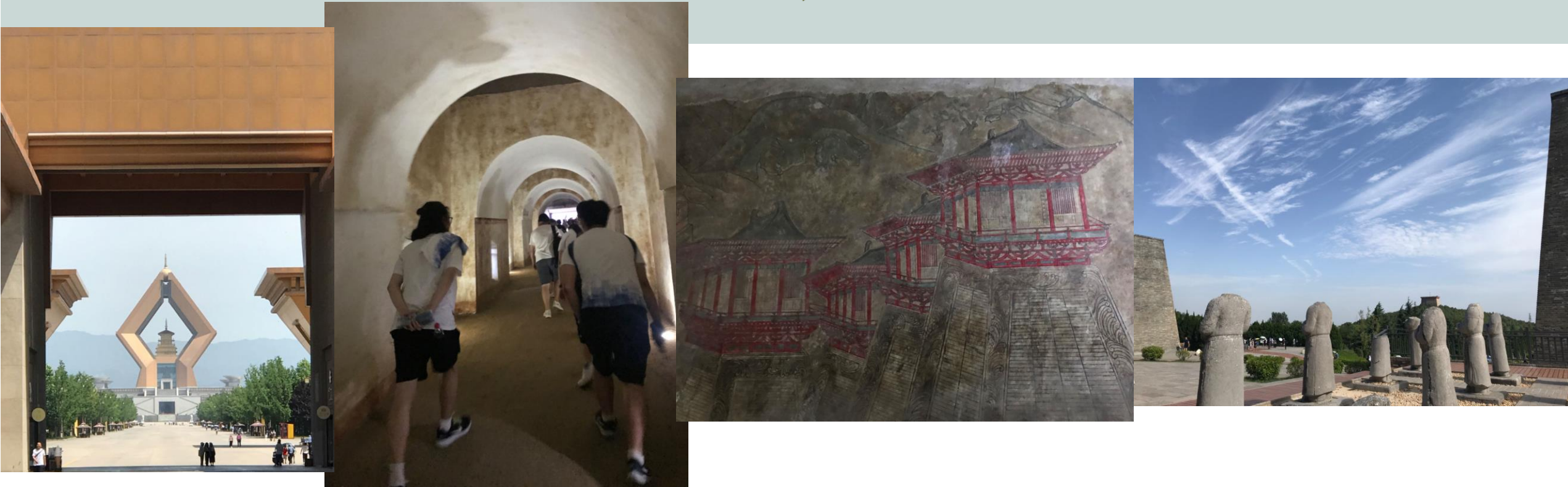


# Imperial Mausoleums of Han (to the North of River Wei)



# Famen Temple, Prince Zhanghuai's Mausoleum and the Qianling Mausoleum

## 法門寺、章懷太子墓及乾陵



# Daming Palace and Archeology Workshop

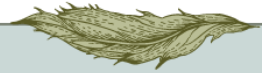
## 大明宮遺址公園及考古體驗



Link:

[https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Bh4y1L7Me/?spm\\_id\\_from=autoNext&vd\\_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Bh4y1L7Me/?spm_id_from=autoNext&vd_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b)

# City Wall of Xi'an



Link:

[https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1k8411S7nT/?spm\\_id\\_from=333.999.0.0&vd\\_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1k8411S7nT/?spm_id_from=333.999.0.0&vd_source=a1d7bf3dc6fba895415951d2e255810b)





Thank you and  
hope you all  
enjoy your  
summer in  
Xi'an!



LI Meng

[Meng.v.li@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:Meng.v.li@polyu.edu.hk)