This course will take a material culture approach to key episodes in Chinese history, focusing in particular on five major technologies and the roles they played in shaping the development of Chinese Civilization. Students will examine the invention of pottery, bronze casting, paper and printing, the compass, and gunpowder through directed readings, lectures, class projects, visits to pottery studios and paper-making facilities, and other hands-on activities. Students will come away from the course with knowledge of the development of these technologies as well as broader trends in Chinese history.