History 276

CHINA SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY

Andrew Hsieh

Spring 2008

ARH 131

Office Hours: 201 Mears

Wed. 10:00 a.m. - noon x3093

This is an introductory course. It has no pre-requisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Chinese history. It will meet two times a week and will generally follow this pattern:

Tuesday— Lecture; Thursday—Discussion of the week’s assignments.

Requirements include:

- Writing a one-paragraph comment on the weekly reading for discussion. Do so for weeks II, III, V, VI, IX, X and XI. These one paragraph comments are due in class on Thursdays;
- Preparing DI, which are due in class on Thursdays. Do so for weeks II, III, V, VI, IX and X.
- Each DI (which stands for discussion initiation) sheet is to be TYPEWRITTEN on one 8½” x 11” piece of paper and should include the following:

  __ the student’s name;
  __ the date;
  __ the student’s title for the week’s work;
  __ the student’s choice of one quotation from the week’s assigned reading (not from Spence’s In Search for Modern China
  __ the student’s formulation of ONE question for the week’s discussion.
- Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays;
- Complete TWO special writing assignments. Instructions to be announced later.

Each student’s grade will be based on the performance of three kinds of assignments with roughly equal weight given to each: 35% on comments and the DI sheets, 35% on the two special writing assignments, and 30% on attendance and participation in classroom discussion.

I. T January 22 Introduction

TH January 24 Manchu Conquest
II. T January 29
Imperial Government
Three Emperors

TH January 31
READINGS:
Jonathan Spence, Emperor of China (New York, 1974), pp. xi-xxvi and 4-59
Modern China, pp. 49-90

DISCUSSION:
In what ways did the Kangxi (K’ang-hsi) Emperor exercise control over China?

III. T February 5
Peasants, Artisans, and Merchants
Elites

TH February 7
READINGS:
Shen Fu, Chapters from a Floating Life, trans. by Shirley Black, pp. 24-97 (Recommended)
Modern China, pp. 90-136

DISCUSSION:
Was Ch’ing local government effective?

IV. T February 12
The Opium War
The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom

TH February 14
FILM: LIN TSE-HSU (Commissioner Lin))

V. T February 19
Wars with the West
Treaty Ports

TH February 21
READINGS:
Modern China, pp. 194-244

DISCUSSION:
Did modernization go “wrong” in China compared to South and Southeast Asia?
VI. T February 26  
Reforms
The Revolution of 1911

TH February 28  
READINGS:
Modern China, pp. 245-268

DISCUSSION:
What was the relationship between leaders and followers in the revolution of 1911?

VII. T March 4  
The May 4th Intellectual Revolution
May 4th Literature

TH March 6  
READINGS:
Modern China, pp. 269-333
Lu Xun (Lu Hsun; pseudonym of Zhou Shuren) “Preface to the First Collection of Short Stories, ‘Call to Arms’”, “A Madman’s Diary,” “King I-chi,” “Medicine,” “My Old Home,” “The True Story of Ah Q,” “The New Year’s Sacrifice,” all in Selected Stories of Lu Hsun.

DISCUSSION:
Was Lu Xun hopeful?

VIII T March 11  
FILM: THE NEW YEAR’S SACRIFICE

TH March 13  
NO CLASS

FIRST SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE
SUBMIT A PAPER COPY BY 4:30 PM TO THE SECRETARY’S OFFICE, MEARS COTTAGE

SPRING BREAK (March 15 – March 30)

IX. T April 1  
Warlords
Nationalists and Communists

TH April 3  
READINGS:
Modern China, pp. 334-402
DISCUSSION:
Why did Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) become a revolutionary, a Marxist, and an advocate of peasant mobilization?

X. T April 8  
China and Japan  
War with Japan, 1937-1945

TH April 10  
READINGS:  
Modern China, pp. 403-434  
Chalmers Johnson, Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power, pp. 1-91 and 176-187  

DISCUSSION:  
What mobilized peasants in China between 1937 and 1945?

XI. T April 15  
Peasant Mobilization  
Civil War and Social Revolution

TH April 17  
READINGS:  
Modern China, pp. 435-513  

DISCUSSION:  
How did Communist Cadres’ perceptions of peasants’ interests differ from peasants’ perceptions of their own interest?

XII. T April 22  
Unification  
Building socialism

TH April 24  
READINGS:  
Modern China, pp. 514-590  
Jean Pasqualini, PRISONER OF MAO (New York, 1973) pp. 27-83  
DISCUSSION  
Was thought reform effective?

MONDAY, APRIL 28  
SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE  
SUBMIT A PAPER COPY TO  
THE SECRETARY’S OFFICE BY 4:30 PM

XIII. T April 29  
The Cultural Revolution  
Roll-back
TH May 1

READINGS:
- Modern China, pp. 590-666 and 712-747

DISCUSSION:
What mobilized demonstrations at Tiananmen in the spring of 1989?

XIV. T May 6

The Ascension of China

TH May 8

Retrospect