

History 276
CHINA SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY

Andrew Hsieh
Spring 2008
ARH 131
Office Hours:
Wed. 10:00 a.m. - noon

Lecture, Tuesday 10:00-11:50
Discussion, Thursday, 10:00-10:50

201 Mears
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 8 1/2" 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

READINGS:

Jonathan Spence, The Search for Modern China, (New York, 1990), pp. 1-48

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:

Jonathan Spence, The Death of Woman Wang (New York, 1978)
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
Rhoads Murphey, "The Treaty Ports and China's Modernization: What Went Wrong?" in Mark Elvin and G. William Skinner, eds., The Chinese City Between Two Worlds, pp. 17-71.

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
Mary C. Wright, "Introduction: The Rising Tide of Change," in
Wright, ed., China in Revolution, pp. 1-63
- 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
Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China, Pt. 4, "Genesis of a Communist."

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

Donald Gillin, "Peasant Nationalism in the History of Chinese Communist," Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 23 (February, 1964) pp. 269-289

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

William Hinton, Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village (New York, 1966), pp. 101-240

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 SECRETAREY'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

Xu Hui, "Nightmare," in Perry Link, ed., Stubborn Weeds: Popular and Controversial Chinese Literature after the Cultural Revolution, pp. 48-56

Liu Yiran, "Rocking Tianmen," in Geremie Barné and Linda Jaivin, eds., New Ghosts, Old Dreams: Chinese Rebel Voices, pp. 3-22.

DISCUSSION:

What mobilized demonstrations at Tiananmen in the spring of 1989?

XIV. T May 6

The Ascension of China

TH May 8

Retrospect