

MAO ZEDONG (1893-1976): PORTRAITS OF THE CHAIRMAN

History 376.01
Spring 2008
Mears 217

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Mears 201, x3093
Office Hours: Wed. 10:00-11:50

This seminar will examine the various stages of the life of Mao: his childhood, his rise to prominence in the revolution, and his roles first as Chairman of the Communist Party and later as the undisputed ruler of the Peoples Republic. Themes for this course will include Mao's family life and his struggles against rivals both inside and outside of the Party; this course will also consider his thoughts on peasant organizations, guerrilla warfare, intellectuals and elites, literature and art, mass will and energy, and the continuing revolution. As well, the course will analyze changing depictions of Mao both by himself and by other individuals of differing political persuasions. Readings will include Mao's early autobiographical account, selected biographies published in the West over the past decades, and portions of Mao's speeches and writings relevant to our themes.

January 23	W	Introduction Review Jonathan Spence, MAO ZEDONG
January 30	W	Early Years, 1893-1927 Journalistic Writing and Historical Perspectives SNOW, 129-162; SHORT , chapters 1-4; SCHRAM, CHAPTERS 1-3
February 4	M	Mao in Opposition, 1927-1941 SHORT, chapter 5 and 6 SCHRAM, chapters 4 and 5 MAO, "Report on an Investigation into the Peasant Movement in Hunan
February 6	W	In and Out of the Hunan - Jiangxi Border SHORT chapter 7; SCHRAM chapter 6
February 11	M	The GDM Encirclement and Internal Struggles SHORT , CHAPTERS 8 AND 9; SCHRAM, chapter 7
February 18	M	No Class
February 20	W	The Long March and Yan'an SHORT, chapters 10 and 11; MAO, "On Contradiction"; "talks at Yen'an Forum on Art and Literature"; "Strategic Problems in the anti-Japanese Guerrilla War
February 25	M	Civil War, 1946-1949 SHORT, chapter 12; SCHRAM, chapter 8; MAO "Two Possible Destinies"; "On Coalition Government"

- February 27 W Experimentations of Two Paths, 1950-1965
SHORT, chapter 13; SCHRAM, chapter 10; MAO 'On the Ten Major Relationships'; "On Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People"; "Speech at the Lushan Conference."
- March 3 M CHINA THROUGH MAO'S EYES, A DOCUMENTARY BY PHILIP SHOR
- March 5 W The Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976
MacFarquhar and Schoenhals, MAO'S LAST REVOLUTION, Chapters 1-10

SPRING RECESS (March 15 – 31)

- April 2 W LAST REVOLUTION, chapters 11-14
- April 14 M LAST REVOLUTION, chapters 15-19
- April 16 W LAST REVOLUTION, chapters 20-25
- April 28 & 30 MW Students Presentations
- May 9 F FINAL PAPER DUE, 4:30 PM,
Submit paper copy to Academic Support
Office in Mears Cottage

Film: TIANANMEN will be shown on the day of the seminar dinner.