

CHINA SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY

History 276
Spring 2009

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Office Hours:
Wed. 10:00 a.m. –11:50

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: Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:50, lectures; Thursdays, 10:00-10:50, discussion of the week's assignments.

Requirements include:

Writing a one-paragraph comment on the weekly reading for discussion. Do so for weeks, 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, VII, IX and XII.

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 20: Introduction

TH January 22: Manchu Conquest

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

II. T January 27: Imperial Government and Early Qing Emperors

TH January 29

READING: 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 Emperor exercise control over China?

III. T February 3: Peasants, Artisans, and Merchants

TH February 5

READING: Jonathan Spence, The Death of Woman Wang (New York, 1978)

DISCUSSION: Was Qing local government effective?

IV. T February 10: The Opium War

TH February 12

FILM: LIN TSE-HSU (Commissioner Lin)

READING: Frederic Wakeman, Jr., Strangers at the Gate, (University of California Press, 1966), pp. 11-58

V. T February 17: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom

TH February 19: Wars with the West

READING: Modern China, pp. 145-166; 167-191 (NO DISCUSSION)

VI. T February 24: Reforms and the Revolution of 1911

TH February 26

READINGS: Modern China, pp. 192-267

Mary C. Wright, "Introduction: The Rising Tide of Change," in Wright, ed., China in Revolution, 1-63

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

VII. T March 3: The May 4th Intellectual Revolution

TH March 5

READING: 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 10: FILM: THE NEW YEAR'S SACRIFICE

TH March 12 (NO CLASS)

FIRST SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE MARCH 12.

SUBMIT A PAPER COPY BY 4:30 PM TO THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MEARS COTTAGE.

SPRING BREAK (March 14 – March 28)

IX. T March 31: Warlords, the Nationalists, and the Communists

TH April 2

READING: 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 7: War with Japan, 1937-1945

TH April 9

READING: Modern China, pp. 403-434

DISCUSSION: Who fought the Japanese? The Nationalists or the Communists?

XI. T April 14: Civil War and Social Revolution

TH April 16

READING: 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 21: Building socialism

TH April 23

READING: Modern China, pp. 514-590; Jean Pasqualini, Prisoner of Mao (New York, 1973), 27-83

DISCUSSION: Was thought reform effective?

XIII. T April 28: The Cultural Revolution

TH April 30

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.

XIV. T May 5: The Tianmen Incident of 1989 (Video)

TH May 7: Retrospect

SECOND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT DUE MAY 11. SUBMIT A PAPER COPY TO MEARS COTTAGE BY 4:30 PM.