This course is a survey of Chinese history since the seventeenth century. We will study the rise and decline of Qing—the last imperial dynasty of China in 1644-1912; the coming to power of the Nationalist Party in the 1920s; the Nationalist rule and the Japanese invasion in the 1930s; the rise of the Communist Party and the establishment of the People’s Republic in 1949; the sweeping changes of the early Communist era; Maoist radicalism and the Cultural Revolution; the reforms of Deng Xiaoping; and the situation in China today. No previous knowledge of China is required.

Two books should be purchased (they have been ordered from the college bookstore, and you probably can find cheaper copies on the Internet):


We meet twice a week. Normally the Tuesday class will be a lecture to complement the chapter for that week in Spence’s *Search for Modern China*, which is a narrative history. You are expected to have done the Spence reading before Tuesday’s class and may be asked about questions on it.

The Thursday meeting will normally be a class discussion of the corresponding chapter in the *Documentary Collection*, a book of historical source readings most translated from Chinese, chosen to go along with the Spence text (please bring the source book to class on Thursdays so that we can examine the texts directly as we discuss them). Not only are you to have read the chapter before the class, you are also to keep a reading journal of what you find important and interesting in each selection. This should be typed, 1 page single spaced each week, and handed in at the end of Thursday’s class. Be sure to read the whole item before starting to write on it. Ask yourself: what is the point, what arguments are given to support it, does it seem convincing; who being addressed, by whom, in what circumstances, with what aim? How is it connected with what we have read in Spence and talked about in class? In short, what can we learn from it? (The editors’ introduction, with the line at the left, has background information, but it is the article itself that we are interested in. Occasionally the “Sources” notes at the very end of the book may be useful.) Based on the journal,
you are expected to participate actively in discussions, raising your own questions and viewpoints and responding to those of others.

You are also to write one short paper (4-6 pages double spaced) on the topic which you will be given. The paper will count 20% of the final grade. In addition, there will be a midterm test and a final examination, each counting 25%. Your Documentary Collection journal will not be graded each week, but will be evaluated at midterm and at the end of the semester together with your contribution to the class discussions (25%). Attendance will count 5%; regular attendance is expected, and grades will be reduced for missing more than three classes.

Week 1
Jan.26   Introduction
Jan.28   The Manchu Conquest

  Reading: chap. 1 “The Late Ming” in both books
          Chap. 2 “The Manchu Conquest” in both books

Week 2
Feb.2,  Feb.4   Consolidation and Prosperity

  Reading: chap. 3 “Kangxi’s Consolidation” in both books
           chap. 5 “Chinese Society and the Reign of Qianlong” in both books

Week 3
Feb.9,  Feb.11  Western Impact

  Reading: chap. 6 “China and the Eighteenth-Century World” in both books
           chap. 7 “The First Clash with the West” in both books

Week 4
Feb.16,  Feb.18  Domestic Crisis

  Reading: chap. 8 “The Crisis Within” in both books
           chap. 10 “New Tensions in the Late Qing” in both books
Week 5
Feb.23, Feb. 25  The Republic Revolution

Reading: chap. 11 “The End of the Dynasty” in both books
       chap. 12 “The New Republic” in both books

Week 6
Mar.2, Mar. 4  The Rise of Communism

Reading: chap. 13 “A Road is Made” in both books
       chap. 14 “The Fractured Alliance” in both books

Week 7
Mar.9, Mar. 11  The Nanjing Decade 1927-37

Reading: chap. 15 “The Guomindang in Power” in both books
       chap. 16 “Communist Survival” in both books

Week 8
Mar.16  Midterm test
Mar.18  TBA

Spring Break

Week 9
Apr.6, Apr.8  The Sino-Japanese War

Reading: chap. 17 “World War II” in both books

The paper is due at the beginning of Thursday's class; no journal

Week 10
Apr.13, Apr. 15  The Civil War

Reading: chap. 18 “The Fall of the Guomindang State” in both books
       chap. 19 “The Birth of the People’s Republic” in both books
Week 11
Apr.20, Apr. 22  Socialist Transition

*Reading:* chap. 20 “Planning the New Society” in both books
chap. 21 “Deepening the Revolution” in both books

Week 12
Apr.27, Apr.29  The Cultural Revolution

*Reading:* chap. 22 “Cultural Revolution” in both books
chap. 23 “Reopening the Doors” in both books

Week 13
May4, May6  The Reform Era

*Reading:* chap. 24 “Redefining Revolution” in both books
chap. 25 “Levels of Power” in both books
chap. 26 “Testing the Limits” in both books

Week 14
May11, May 13  Progresses and Problems

*Reading:* chap. 27 “Century's End” in both books


**Individual presentations** in Thursday's class; no journal

**Final Exam**