

Shanghai: Perspectives on Contemporary China

Modern Chinese History

Fall 2018

Instructor

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Credits

Elective course; 4 semester credits

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to give an introduction to the history of modern China from the Qing dynasty to the present and to understand the continuities and the changes that help to shape the Chinese nation today. The course is divided into three segments. The first segment focuses on the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), the last flowering of the traditional Chinese world order, and moves from there through the long years of the disintegration and the final collapse of the old empire. The second segment analyzes the great Chinese revolution (1912-1949) — in both the Nationalist and Communist phases — that has been one of the most significant episodes in the history of the 20th-century world. The third segment discusses the legacies of the Chinese revolution in the post-1949 period, which profoundly influenced and will continue to influence the political, economic, cultural, and social developments of contemporary China.

Required Texts

- Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*. Norton, 1999
- Ida Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han*. Stanford University Press, 1967
- Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*. New York, Penguin Books, 1997
- Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, Touchstone; Reprint edition, 2003
- Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*. New York, Vintage Books, 1984

Course Schedule

Week 1

Introduction to Syllabus: Major Issues of Modern Chinese History Concerned

Week 2: Session 1

Movie: *Last Emperor* (Part 1, Director: Bernardo Bertolucci, 1987)

Readings: Spence, pp. 3-25; Start Reading: Ida Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han*.

Week 2: Session 2

Rise of the Manchus

Readings: Spence, pp. 26-114.

Week 3: Session 1

China and the Outside World

Readings: Spence, pp. 115-135; pp. 139-163.

Week 3: Session 2

Movie & Discussion: *Death by China* (Documentary)

Week 4: Session 1

The Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace

Readings: Spence, pp. 164-185.

Week 4: Session 2

The Second Opium War and the Late Qing Restoration

Readings: Spence, pp. 186-207.

Week 5: Session 1

The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and the Reform Movement of 1898

Readings: Spence, pp. 208-221.

Quiz # 1; Paper #1 due. Start reading Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*.

Week 5: Session 2

The Boxer Uprising of 1900

Readings: Spence, pp. 222-233.

Week 6: Session 1

The 1911 Revolution

Readings: Spence, pp.236-263.

Week 6: Session 2

Field Trip to Pudong, Shanghai.

Week 7: Session 1

The Birth of the Republic and the May Fourth Movement of 1919

Readings: Spence, pp. 267-289.

Week 7: Session 2

Review Session

Quiz # 2.

Week 8

Midterm Exam (class time)

Week 9

The Birth of the CCP and the First United Front

Readings: Spence, pp. 290-341.

Paper #2 due. Start reading Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanjing*.

Week 10: Session 1

Field Trip to the CCP Museum at Xintiandi, Shanghai.

Week 10: Session 2

The Nationalists in Power and the Communists in Countryside

Readings: Spence, pp. 342-352, 397-409.

Week 11: Session 1

The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-45

Readings: Spence, pp. 366-374, 431-458.

Week 11: Session 2

Movie: *Nanking* (Documentary)

Week 12: Session 1

The Civil War, 1947-49

Readings: Spence, pp. 459-488.

Week 12: Session 2

The Birth of the People's Republic of China and the Korean War

Readings: Spence, pp. 489-513.

Week 13: Session 1

Planning the New Society: The Great Leap Forward

Readings: Spence, pp. 514-523, 536-553.

Quiz #3; Paper # 3 due. Start reading: Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*.

Week 13: Session 2

China's Foreign Policy and the Sino-Soviet Rift

Readings: Spence, pp. 523-530, 553-559.

Week 14

The Cultural Revolution, 1966-76

Readings: Spence, pp. 565-586.

Week 15: Session 1

China Re-Entering the World

Movie: *Plastic China* (Documentary)

Readings: Spence, pp. 589-617.

Week 15: Session 2

Convergence of Capitalism and Socialism in the Post-Mao China

Readings: Spence, pp. 677-704.

Quiz #4; Paper # 4 due.

Week 16

General Review and Final Examination

Assessment

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Mid-term examination	15%
Final examination	40%
Short papers	20% (5% each)
Quizzes	20% (5% each)
Class Performance	5%

Final grade conversions:

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92.9%	B+ = 86.7-89.9%	B = 83.4-86.6%
B- = 80-83.3%	C+ = 76.7-79.9%	C = 73.4-76.6%	C- = 70-73.3%
D+ = 67.7-69.9%	D = 63.4-66.6%	D- = 60-63.3%	F = -59.9%

Course Expectations

The format of this course consists of lectures, discussions, film-viewing, in-class quizzes, and reading primary historical documents. The class will meet two times a week. Normally in each session I will lecture for about 70 minutes, followed by questions and answers. Sometimes, the pattern will change in order to meet the needs of the source material. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments to obtain background knowledge of the lecture topics. In addition to the lectures and texts, the course also makes use of media materials, especially documentary slides and movies, to provide a direct view of China.

There are no prerequisites in this course. Students are expected to do the reading prior to discussion, and to do it in a way that will enable them to raise critical questions. I have opinions on many of the subjects to be discussed and will try to make my biases clear throughout. But students do not need to agree with my views, indeed they are invited to take issue with them and will not be penalized for doing so.

There will be a mid-term examination, four quizzes, four book review papers (3 to 4 pages in length), and a final examination. In addition to these arrangements, there will be other class assignments, including oral presentations and participation in class discussions. Assignments in this category may be given at any time the instructor sees appropriate or necessary.

The university-approved classroom regulations and rules shall be strictly observed. For example, regular class attendance is mandatory. Proper and legitimate evidence must be presented to the instructor for any absence either before or within 48 hours after the class. No make-up examinations will be given unless a legitimate reason for absence is presented to the instructor. Students who have more than four unexcused absences will not pass the course. Tardiness and halfway exists will be regarded as disrespect for others and will be documented as un-granted absences.

Since this syllabus is worked out in advance as a guide to the course, I reserve the right to modify it from time to time during the semester based upon my assessment of class ability and progress. Should a change have to be made, an announcement will be given in advance.

ACM Policies on Academics

A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation

You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty

Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM Policy on Non-Discrimination

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.