

**History 483: Modern China
Chinese Revolutions, 1800-2000**

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This course follows the history of China, particularly the 20th century, from 1800 through the present. It will introduce important historical events such as the Opium War, the 1911 Revolution, the May Fourth Movement of 1919, the Anti-Japanese War, Maoist Revolution, and China's current economic explosion, along with the changes in Chinese society that shook the nation during this time period. It is bounded, chronologically, by two revolutions, but I also hope discussion will reveal that these were not the only "revolutions" to change China. Since it is an upper-division history course, students should be prepared for a fair amount of reading, writing, and historical analysis. Grades will be based upon class participation (10%), midterm examination (35%), book review (20%), and final examination (35%). There are no prerequisites for the course.

Intended Student Outcomes:

- 1) Students will understand the nature of history as a discipline, including the need to think chronologically and to understand different historical and cultural perspectives.
- 2) Students will analyze important trends in modern Chinese history and explain the causes and effects of those events.
- 3) Planned writing assignments will demand that students learn to perceive, create, and/or use criteria to assess the reasonableness, acceptability, or quality of historical sources and arguments.
- 4) Students will learn to write concise and coherent historical On-line essays.

Books:

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China, Second Edition*
Pei-kai Cheng & Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*
Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*

James Cook, Joshua Goldstein, and Sigrid Schmalzer. (eds.) *Visualizing China: Image, History and Memory in China, 1750-Present* (on-line course reserve)

All books are available at the university bookstore, except *Visualizing China*.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Sept. 23: Course Introduction

Reading: Spence, pp. 74-95.

Sept. 24: The Structure of Imperial China: Politics and Economy

Reading: Spence, pp. 96-116.

Sept 25: Movie—*The Genius that was China*

Reading: On-line essay by Cook, Goldstein, and Schmalzer "Visualizing China's Past"

Sept 28: The Structure of Imperial China: Culture and Philosophy

Reading: On-line essay by M. Chang, "Envisioning the Spectacles of Emperor Qianlong's Tour of Southern China"

Sept. 29: No Class-prep readings

Reading: Cheng, pp. 71-81.

Sept. 30: Discussion

Oct. 1: Popular Culture

Reading: Cheng, pp. 81-85.

Oct. 2: Movie: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

Oct. 5: Early Sino-Western Relations

Reading: Spence, pp. 117-137; Cheng, 103-109

Oct. 6: No Class-preparation

Oct. 7: Discussion

Oct. 8: The First Opium War

Reading: Spence, pp. 141-166; Cheng, pp. 110-127

- Oct. 9: Rebellion in China: The Taiping Rebellion
 Reading: Spence, pp. 167-183; Cheng, 132-149; Cecily McCaffrey, "In the Eyes of the Beholder: Rebellion as Visual Experience"
- Oct. 12: Tongzhi Restoration: Conservative Responses to Rebellion and Imperialism
 Reading: Spence, pp. 192-202, 215-229; Cheng pp.168-173
- Oct. 13: No Class-preparation
- Oct. 14: Discussion
- Oct. 15: Late 19th Century Imperialism and the Sino-Japanese War of 1895.
 Reading: Spence, pp. 202-208; Cheng, pp. 173-177
- Oct. 16: Sun Yatsen and the Revolution of 1911
 Reading: Spence, pp. 229-264; Cheng, 190-213.
- Oct. 19: Yuan Shikai and Twentieth-Century Warlordism
 Reading: Spence, pp. 265-289; Madeline Yue Dong, "Yangliuqing New Year's Picture: The Fortunes of a Folk Tradition, 1890-1935"
- Oct. 20: No Class-Prep
- Oct. 21 Discussion
- Oct. 22: New Culture Movement and Cultural Iconoclasm, 1915-1919
 Reading: Spence, pp. 290-308; Cheng, pp. 227-232;
- Oct. 23: The May Fourth Movement, 1919-1921.
- Oct. 26: The Origins of the Chinese Communist Party and the Guomindang-Communist Alliance.
 Reading: Spence, pp. 308-323; Cheng, pp. 238-244.
- Oct. 27: No Class-Prep
- Oct. 28: Discussion
- Oct. 29: The Labor Movement and the National Revolution of 1927.
- Reading: Spence, pp. 323-341; Cheng, pp. 252-269.
- Oct. 30: The Origins of the Peasant Movement, 1924-1928.
 Reading: Spence, pp. 375-385; on-line essay by A. Morris, "'The Me in the Mirror': A Narrative of Voyeurism and Discipline in Chinese Women's Physical Culture, 1921-1937"
- Nov. 2: Midterm due
- Nov. 3: No Class-Prep
- Nov. 4: State and Society under the Guomindang, 1927-1937.
 Reading: Spence, pp. 342-374; on-line essay by C. Musgrove, "Monumentality in Nationalist Nanjing: Purple Mountain's Changing Views"
- Nov. 5: The Jiangxi Soviet, the Red Army, and The Long March.
 Reading: Spence, pp. 385-403; Cheng, pp.290-294
- Nov. 6: Overseas Chinese and China
 Reading: Spence, pp. 208-214; Cheng 166-168; On-line essay by J. Cook, "Rethinking 'China': Overseas Chinese See China"
- Nov. 9: Yen'an Communism, and the Ascendancy of Mao, 1936-1945.
 Reading: Reading: Spence, 403-409, 436-441; Cheng, 333-335.
- Nov. 10: Discussion
- Nov. 11: Veteran's Day-No Class
 Reading: on line essay by Liu Lu, "Imagining the Refugee: The Emergence of a State Welfare System in the War of Resistance"
- Nov. 12: The War of Resistance against Japan.
 Reading: Spence, pp.413-436, 441-458; Cheng, pp. 314-328
- Nov. 13: Movie: *Red Sorghum*
- Nov. 16: Movie continued.
 Readings: Spence, pp. 459-488; Cheng, pp. 336-338, 345-347
- Nov. 17: The Civil War and the Communist Revolution.

Readings: Spence, pp. 489-498; on-line essay by C. Hess,
“Revolutionary Real Estate: Envisioning Space in Dalian, 1946-1947”

Nov. 18: Discussion

Reading: Spence, pp.507-513; Start *Son of the Revolution*

Nov. 19: The Great Leap Forward

Reading: Spence, pp. 536-552; Continue *Son of the Revolution*

Nov. 20: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-76)

Reading: Spence, pp. 559-586; Continue *Son of the Revolution*

Nov. 23: Movie: *To Live*

Nov. 24: Continue *To Live*

Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving holiday

Reading: Spence, pp. 589-600, 610-617

Nov. 30: Discussion

Dec. 1: China under Deng Xiaoping

Reading: Spence, pp. 618-631; 640-646; on-line essay by X. Zheng,
“Images, Memories and Lives, of Sent-down Youth in Yunnan”

Dec. 2: Tiananmen Square

Reading: Spence, pp. 692-704; Cheng, pp. 487-495; on-line essay by
S. Schmalzer and E. Songster, “Wild Pandas, Wild People: Two Views of
Wilderness in Deng-Era China”

Dec. 3: Discussion

Dec. 4: China’s Economic Development in the 1990s

Reading: Spence, pp. 631-640; 705-721