



Global China Program Introduction to the History of Modern China

(中国近现代史)

Professor: Zhang, Hui

Email: hzhang@soci.ecnu.edu.cn

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 56 course hours. One course hour is 45 minutes.

Recommended Credit: 3

Semester: Spring, 2024

Course Introduction

This course serves as a survey of modern Chinese history. It will guide the students to explore the drastic social, cultural and political transformations that took place in China in the past one and half centuries, which had led to the country's current shape. Lectures and discussions will center on the introduction of general social context of different historical periods, significant incidents and events, key historical figures, as well as landmark literary texts and cultural artifacts. While generally following a chronological order, the course content will also be arranged in such a way as to address the various themes of social changes that have significant implications in the contemporary era – the reconstruction of national and ethnic identities of modern time, China's international relationships, religions and secret societies, the transformation of gender role and family relationship, changes in economic policies, as well as trends in literature and popular cultures. Through the study of a wide array of texts that include historical documents, literary works, documentary and feature films, the course will provide the opportunities for the students to acquire and exercise analytical skills to critically examine materials from diverse sources, perspectives and media forms.

Course Objectives

The students are expected to acquire in-depth knowledge of China's historical progress in the modern and contemporary era. They should obtain sophisticated understanding of the significant incidents and historical figures that impacted China's history during the modern/contemporary era. The course will also help students to develop preliminary analytical skills of historical documents and materials.

Academic honesty



Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to comply with the university regulations. Failure to adhere to the rules of academic integrity and honesty will be reported and dealt with accordingly.

Course Plan

Sessions	Topic and Assignments
Session 1	<p>Course Introduction and An Overview of Chinese Dynasties and Geography</p> <p>Assigned Readings: Chapter 5 “Chinese Society and the Reign of Qianlong” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p>
Session 2	<p>The Communication and Conflict with the West during the Reign of Manchu</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 6. “China and the Eighteenth Century World” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p>2. Chapter 7. “The First Clash with the West” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p>
Session 3	<p>The Taiping Rebellion and the Boxer Uprising</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 8. “The Crisis Within” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 8.6 “A Proclamation Against the Bandits of Guangdong and Guangxi”</p> <p>8.7 “Zeng Guofan’s Letter to His Younger Brothers”</p> <p>10.5 Several Accounts of “The Shining Red Lantern”, 10.6 Four Accounts of the Fate of Miss Han</p>
Session 4	<p>The Late Qing Intellectual Trends and Social Reforms</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 9. “Restoration Through Reform” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p>2. Chapter 10. “New Tensions in Late Qing” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 9.2 “Prince Gong on The Tongwen College: Three Memorials, 1861, 1865, 1866”</p> <p>10.3 “Zhang Zhidong on the Central Government”</p> <p>10.4 “Urban Life in the Dianshizhai Pictorial”</p>



<p>Session 5</p>	<p>The Founding of the Republic and the Warlords Crisis of the Government</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 11. “The End of the Dynasty” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p>2. Chapter 12. “The New Republic” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 11.1 “Zou Rong on Revolution, 1903”</p> <p>11.3 “An Address to My Two Hundred Million Women Compatriots in China”</p> <p>12.4 “Feng Yuxiang: Praising the Lord”</p>
<p>Session 6</p>	<p>The New Culture Movement</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 2. “A Tale of Two Cities: Beijing, Shanghai and the May Fourth Generation” and “Experiments in Happiness: Life and Love in New Culture China” in <i>A Bitter Revolution</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 12.6 Butterfly Fiction: “We Shall Meet Again,” 1914</p> <p>13.1 “Chen Duxiu: Call to Youth, 1915”</p> <p>13.4 “Lu Xun: ‘A Madman’s Diary’”</p>
<p>Session 7</p>	<p>The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party</p> <p>Assigned Readings: Chapter 13. “A Road is Made” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p>Chapter 14. “The Fractured Alliance” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>
<p>Session 8</p>	<p>The War with Japan and World War II</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 17. “World War II” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 17.4 “Bearing Witness”</p> <p>17.7 “Wang Jingwei: On Collaboration, 1941”</p> <p>17.8 “Liu Shaoqi: How to Be A Good Communist, 1939”</p>
<p>Session 9</p>	<p>The Civil War and The GMD’s Establishment in Taiwan</p> <p>Assigned Readings: Chapter 18. “The Fall of the Guomindang State” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 18.2 “General Marshall: The Mediator’s View, 1947”</p> <p>18.3 “The 2-28 Incident in Taiwan”</p>
<p>Session 10</p>	<p>The Founding of PRC and The Land Reform</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 19. “The Birth of the People’s Republic” in <i>The Search for</i></p>



	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Modern China</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 19.1 “Treaty with The Soviet Union, February 1950” 19.4 “Hu Shi and Hu Sidu: Father and Son”</p>
Session 11	<p>The Great Leap Movement and The Cultural Revolution</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 21. “Deepening the Revolution” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Chapter 6. “Tomorrow the Whole World Will be Red” in <i>A Bitter Revolution</i></p> <p><u>Primary materials presentation:</u> 21.3 “Hold High the Red Flag of People’s Communes and March On,” <i>People’s Daily</i> editorial, September 3, 1958</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22.2 “Lin Biao: ‘Long Live the Victory of People’s War’, September 1965” 22.4 “The ‘Sixteen-Point Decision’”</p>
Session 12	<p>The Reform Period and China’s Economic Miracle</p> <p>Assigned Readings: 1. Chapter 23. “Reopening the Doors” in <i>The Search for Modern China</i></p>
Session 13	<p>Review of the Course and the Final Exam</p>

Required Textbooks

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 3rd edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2013. (digital copy available)

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 3rd edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2013. (digital copy available)

Rana Mitter, *A Bitter Revolution: China’s Struggle with the Modern World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. (digital copy available)

Suggested Further Readings

Maurice Meisner, *Mao’s China and After: A History of People’s Republic of China*, 3rd edition. New York: The Free Press, 1999.



R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall, 2010.

Course Evaluation

Midterm exam (Session 8)	30%
Final exam (Session 14)	30%
Primary Material Presentation/ History within the City Exploration Tour Presentation	15%
Class participation	15%
Attendance	10%
Total	100%

Assignments:

Examinations: The midterm and final exam format will be in essay questions. The students are required to compose 2 short essays approximately 400 – 500 words each in response to 2 questions (out of 3) asked. This is an open book examination, which means the students can bring textbooks and other reference materials with them.

History within the City Exploration Tour: The students are required to complete a tour which is themed on a particular topic of modern Chinese history related to Shanghai. Throughout the semester, the students need to visit the site for at least once, and then visually document what they have seen and learnt through the visit. The purpose of the tour is for students to learn to obtain historical knowledge outside of the classroom and also to experience historical spaces and heritage sites as they are today.

Primary Material Analysis Presentation: The students will select one piece of primary material from the documentary collection reader and lead the class discussion on it. Through individual research, the presenter's tasks include provide biographical information about the historical figure involved, contextualize the document in the historical period under discussion, highlight the significance or interesting points in the material, engage the class in further discussions about the document.



Class Participation: The students are required to complete assigned readings before class and actively engage in the class discussions.

Attendance: Attendance is required for all class activities, including field trips and film screenings.