

**Modern Transformation of China**  
HIS 384-01, Fall 2006  
HHRA 2211, TR 11:00-12:15

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Office Hours: Wed. 10-12 a.m., and by appointment

**Course Description:**

When did Modern China begin? What do we mean by this term? Can we understand the modern history of China, if we only focus on the Chinese response to the arrival of Western powers in the region? This course will examine the political, intellectual and social development of China since ca. 1700. Attention will be given to traditional Chinese culture and society, peasant revolutions, the May Fourth Movement, the rise of nationalism and communism, and domestic developments since the 1949 founding of the People's Republic of China. Comparing and analyzing a variety of primary source materials, we will write our own history of China, and in the end develop our skill to observe societies with different origins than our own.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with historical topics.
- Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- Learn of the fundamental historical development of China from ca. 1700 to the present day.
- Understand better the effect the recent past has had on the modern world.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

**Course Reading Materials** (On sale at the UNCG Bookstore)

1. Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1990)
2. Pamela K. Crossley, *The Manchus: The Peoples of Asia* (Cambridge, Mass.:Blackwell Publishers, 1997)
3. John Wills, *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1994)

All other materials with \* mark for this course will be available on Blackboard.

## Assignment and Grading

1. **Class attendance and participation (10%)**: Class participation in the discussion of the reading materials and attendance is essential. Absences of more than **1 meeting** will be marked down and will affect your final grade.
2. **Weekly responses (20 %)**: You are required to answer to several questions posted on Blackboard about **TEN** readings. You are to submit a-paragraph, typed answers to each question after every Thursday class. No late submission is accepted.
3. **Map Quiz (10%)**: A map quiz will be tested to identify regional names and locations in China and some parts of East Asia. No make-up quiz will be offered.
4. **Group Presentation (20%)**: 2-3 students will make a group presentation based on the assigned readings for the selected week. The group presentation in class should be around 20 minutes. It is a group project, therefore each group member will receive same grade regardless of their different contributions to presentation.
5. **Mid-term Exam (20%)**: There is an exam in class on October 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). Questions are selected from lectures, class discussions, and weekly readings. No make-up quiz will be offered.
6. **Final Take Home Exam (20%)**: There is a 5 page, typed take-home exam. Cumulative exam based on lectures, class discussions, and weekly readings. Questions will be given on the last day of the class, November 30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). The exams will be due in my office no later than 5 pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). No late submission or submission via email is accepted.

## Class Regulations

1. No incomplete is given for this class.
2. Laptops can be used during the class, but no web browsing is allowed. If it is found, points will be deducted from the class attendance and participation.
3. Plagiarism (*Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise*): Plagiarism is a serious crime. It may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including web sites, as one's own work. If a student submits works done by or copied from another, including a fellow student, a previous student, or anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment, s/he will receive F on assignment or be recommended for expulsion.

## Course Schedule

### I. LATE IMPERIAL CHINA

#### Week 1 (Aug. 15-17)

Theme: Course introduction; Map of China

Film in class: "Mandate of Heaven"

#### Week 2 (Aug. 22-24)

Theme: The Manchu Conquest

Map Quiz on August 24 (Thursday)

Reading for lecture: Spence, 26-73.

Reading for response 1: Crossley, 75-108.

#### Week 3 (Aug. 29-31)

Theme: The High Qing Era

Presentation 1: "The Qing Dynasty"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 96-116.

Reading for response 2: Wills, "Qianlong Emperor," 231-258.

#### Week 4 (Sep. 5-7)

Theme: Europeans in China

Presentation 2: "The Jesuits in China"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 117-137.

Reading for response 3: \*Mungello, *The Great Encounter of China and the West*, 11-55, 94-99.

#### Week 5 (Sep. 12-14)

Theme: Qing China in World History

Film in class: "Two Coasts of China"

Reading for lecture: Crossley, 109-149.

Reading for response 4: \*Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise*, 1-25, 33-49.

### II. THE END OF THE DYNASTY

#### Week 6 (Sep. 19-21)

Theme: The Crisis at the Frontier

Presentation 3: "The Heavenly Kingdom"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 141-166.

Reading for response 5: Wills, "Hong Xiuquan."

**Week 7 (Sep. 26-28)**

Theme: The Crisis Within; Japanese Meiji Restoration

Film in class: "Meiji: Asia's response to the West"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 167-191.

Reading for response 6: Crossley, 150-177.

**Week 8 (Oct. 3-5)**

Theme: Restoration and Reform

Presentation 4: "China vs. Japan"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 192-242.

Reading for response 7: Wills, "Liang Qichao."

**Week 9 (Fall Break & Oct. 12)**

Mid-term Exam: Oct. 12 (Thursday)

**Week 10 (Oct. 17-19)**

Theme: The Republic Revolution

Film in class: "Sentimental Imperialist: American in Asia"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 243-289.

### III. WAR AND REVOLUTION

**Week 11 (Oct. 24-26)**

Theme: Imperialism and Nationalism

Presentation 5: "The May Forth Movement"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 290-313.

Reading for response 8: \*Mitter, *A Bitter Revolution*, 3-25

\*Lu Xun, "Diary of a Madman."

**Week 12 (Oct.31-Nov. 2)**

Theme: The KMT and the CCP

Presentation 6: "Chinese Nationalist Party"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 314-341.

Reading for response 9: Wills, "The Kuomintang legacy"

**Week 13 (Nov. 7-9)**

Theme: Japanese Invasion of China and WWII

Presentation 7: "Chinese Communist Party"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 342-374.

Reading for response 10: Wills, "Mao Zedong"

**Week 14 (Nov. 14-16)**

Theme: The Birth of People's Republic

Film in class: "China in Revolution"

Reading for lecture: Spence, 459-488.

**Week 15 (Nov. 21 & Thanksgiving Break)**

Film in class: "To Live"

**Week 16 (Nov. 28-30)**

Theme: China under Mao Zedong

Film in class: "The Mao Years"

**Take Home Exam: Due by 5 pm on Dec. 7 (Thursday)**