

**University of North Carolina at Greensboro**  
**HIS 384: The Modern Transformation of China, 1800-present**

Spring Semester 2002

T R 11:00am -12:15pm, CURY 309

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS384>

Office Hours: TR 1:00-1:50pm, and by appointment

**Introduction:**

Is Modern China really “modern”? 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. 1800. 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. 1800 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 INFORMATION**

**Requirements:**

There will be a "take home" final exam, an ungraded "history skills" quiz, four graded quizzes, and two 5-6 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins) “think piece” papers. The first “think piece” paper will be due in class on **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. The second paper is due in class on **Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. The due date of the final "take home" exam is **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** in office at McIver 242. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, the completion of all written assignments (including the ungraded quiz) is necessary for a passing grade.

**Internet Access:**

I will require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. Please set up these accounts as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Please note:** No “incompletes” will be given for this course, so plan ahead!

**Grading:**

Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%
Quizzes	40%
Final	20%
Class Participation	10%

**“Half-hourly” Quizzes:**

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. On some quizzes, you will be asked to relate materials from the readings, lectures, guest lectures, and films to information on maps. Therefore, you will want to refer to a map when reviewing the readings and class notes. I also recommend that you bring a map to class every day to use as a reference guide during lectures and discussions.

**Make-up Quizzes:**

With a doctor’s written excuse, a student will be able to make up one missed quiz. A make-up quiz must be taken within one week of the in-class quiz’s original date. Make-up quizzes will be given during my office hours, unless there exist unavoidable time conflicts.

**Final Take-home Examination:**

There is a 5 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions two weeks before the end of the course. The exams will be due in my office (242 McIver) no later than **3pm on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. We’ll talk more about this exam later in the course.

**Classroom Discussions:**

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class during lecture. When a film is shown in class, we will follow the presentation with a short discussion. Due to the size of the class, students will be divided into four (4) formal discussion groups (**Groups A-D**). These groups will lead class discussions at times noted in the lecture schedule (usually during the second half of class on Thursdays). The first formal discussion will be held during the second half of class on **Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. Students must sign up for their preferred group by **Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. No one may switch groups without my prior permission. Students will be graded on their contribution to the formal discussion groups and on their participation in informal class discussions. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing. **Any student with five unexcused absences from their discussion group will receive "0%" for the class participation portion of their final grade.**

**Short Writing Exercises:**

Following each discussion session led by a discussion group I will require that you turn in to me a one-paragraph, typed summary of the five questions asked and the five points raised by that week's discussion

group, as well as a one-paragraph, typed personal response to one of their questions. These exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight "checks" for all exercises, you will have earned a "B" for this part of the course. To earn a "check-plus" you need to demonstrate that you have thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam. Please include your name and student number on each submission.

**Web-site:**

I have created a Web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the semester progresses. Students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Moreover, I may include additional materials on the library's Electronic Reserve list. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for such materials.

**Papers:**

The two "think piece" papers, to be written on assigned topics, will be based on your readings, discussions and the lectures. This paper is not a research paper; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

**Required Texts:**

The following books are required reading for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore:

1. Spence, Jonathan. *The Search for Modern China* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Norton, 1999.
2. Timothy Weston and Lionel Jensen (Eds.) *China Beyond the Headlines*. Rowan & Littlefield, 2000.
3. Chang, Jung. *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*. Random House, 1991.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

### PART ONE: "TRADITIONAL" CHINA

**WEEK #1 (1/15-1/17):** Introduction to the course. Geographical features of China. Cultural Characteristics of Chinese society.

Film: *MANDATE OF HEAVEN*

**WEEK #2(1/22-1/24):** The Chinese State and Society through the High Qing Period.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 3-116.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. xiii-9, 13-35 (**Group A**).

**Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> SKILLS QUIZ IN CLASS**

### PART TWO: THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM

**WEEK #3 (1/29-1/31):** China in Early Encounters with Western Powers.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 117-137.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 69-95, 195-215 (**Group B**).

**WEEK #4 (2/5-2/7):** Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. Clash with the West. The Opium Wars.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 141-66.

Film: *TWO COASTS OF CHINA: ASIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE WEST*

**WEEK #5 (2/12-2/14):** Domestic Unrest. The Taiping Rebellion. The Tongzhi Restoration: Efforts to Make Adjustments at "Mid-Dynasty." Students Abroad.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 167-214.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 37-67, 121-145 (**Group C**).

**QUIZ #2 (TUESDAY 2/12)**

**WEEK #6 (2/19-2/21):** Self -Strengthening Movement. One Hundred Days of Reform. The Boxer Rebellion.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 215-242.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 217-244, 245-271(**Group D**).

### PART THREE: THE AGE OF NATIONALISM

**WEEK #7 (2/26-2/28):** The Road to Revolution. Sun Yat-sen and the Tongmenhui. 1911: What happened?

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 243-63.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 147-170, 171-192 (**Group A**).

**WEEK #8 (3/5-3/7):** The Warlord Period. Testing Ground of Chinese Marxism. The May Fourth Movement. The Rise of Chiang Kai-shek. The Nanjing Decade.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 267-374.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 273-294, 327-346 (**Group B**).

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> - FIRST "THINK PIECE" PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**SPRING BREAK (SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>)**

**WEEK #9 (3/19-3/21):** World War Two: Crisis and Opportunity. The Long March.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 375-458.

FILM: *CHINA IN REVOLUTION (PART 2)*

**QUIZ #3 (TUESDAY 3/19)**

#### **PART FOUR: THE AGE OF IDEALISM**

**WEEK #10 (3/26-3/28):** The KMT Defeat. The Cold War. Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 459-513.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 295-326, 347-354 (**Group C**).

**WEEK #11 (4/2-4/4):** The PRC Struggle for Domestic Reconstruction and International Prestige. The Anti-Rightist Campaign. Red or Expert? The Great Leap Forward and its Aftermath.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 514-564.

FILM: *THE MAO YEARS (PART 1)*

**WEEK #12 (4/9-4/11):** Mao's Increasing Political Utopianism. The Cultural Revolution. The Gang of Four.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 565-86.

FILM: *THE MAO YEARS (PART 2)*

**QUIZ #4 (TUESDAY 4/9)**

#### **PART FIVE: THE AGE OF REFORM**

**WEEK #13 (4/16-4/18):** Nixon's China Visit. The Age of Deng Xiaoping. Wei Jingsheng and the Democracy Wall Movement. The Trials of Reform and Growth.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 589-676.

Film: *BORN UNDER THE RED FLAG (PART 1)*

**WEEK #14 (4/23-4/25):** China's "June Fourth" Crisis.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 677-704.

Discussion reading: Weston & Jenson, pp. 97-112, 113-120 (**Group D**).

**QUIZ #5 (TUESDAY 4/23)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> - SECOND "THINK PIECE" PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**WEEK #15 (4/30-5/2):** Jiang Zemin's China. The Road to Democratic Reform in Taiwan. Hong Kong in 1997. Summary and Review. Pick up Examination Questions.

Lecture reading: Spence, pp. 705-728.

Film: *BORN UNDER THE RED FLAG (PART 2)*

**MAY 9 FINAL EXAM DUE IN MCIVER 242 BY 3PM**