

MODERN CHINA

FALL 2018

MWF 9.35-10.25 a.m.

Selda Altan

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Course Description

This course examines the modern history of China, from roughly the 18th century to the present, as a milieu in which multiple Chinese identities unfolded and transformed themselves in a dialogue with local and global dynamics of history. Through an analysis of major political events and social movements in this period, such as wars, rebellions, and revolutions, the course aims to introduce students to the tensions among Chinese ethnicities, encounters with foreign forces, and the influence of global phenomena (i.e., imperialism, socialism, and neoliberalism) as the foundations of a fluid and varied Chinese identity. Every week, students will read original texts and documents that would help them understand the dynamics of social and political change in China from different personal and institutional perspectives.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will have gained a chronological and global understanding of modern Chinese history, with a special emphasis on identity formation. Students will be able to make connections between national and global histories with the help of secondary and primary sources while they also learn to assess the credibility of these sources and how to use them to support their arguments against alternative viewpoints. Students will improve their writing and oral communication skills through class discussions and writing assignments.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to do the weekly readings before coming to class. Classes begin with a brief lecture on the weekly topic and continue with class activities and discussions. To participate in these, you should read both the secondary sources and primary documents indicated on the syllabus. Attendance is also required. Based on the syllabus instructions, students must see the movies, maps, and other visual materials before or during the classes.

Course Policies

Please attend the classes regularly. Your participation in class activities and discussions is part of your grade. During the discussions, respect your classmates and express your disagreements in a professional manner. No laptops are allowed, and there must be no

plagiarism. This course does not require you to use external sources. All of your writing must be your authentic work.

Accommodations

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

Grading

15% Attendance and Participation

20% In-class quiz (x2)

25% Midterm paper (5 pages)

40% Final exam

Extra credit options are available through optional short assignments.

In-class quizzes (x2): The questions will be about the facts covered in the classes. They may include names, dates, maps, and visuals. Short answer. 20 minutes.

Midterm paper will be based on the question/prompt provided by the instructor. No external sources are allowed. Use the course readings, primary sources, and cite them properly. No late work is accepted.

Submission of papers: All written work is due at the beginning of class in hard copy on the day indicated on the syllabus. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in a 12-point font (Times New Roman, preferred). Your name should be on the paper, and all pages should be stapled and numbered. The instructor may ask for an electronic copy of your paper in order to use it as an example in teaching or to submit to a plagiarism detection site like Turnitin.com.

Essay sample (Please write a 5-page essay, utilizing the primary sources included in the course materials): Read the quote below from Mao Zedong's report "On Tactics Against Japanese Imperialism" (1935). Based on an analysis of its discursive and historical aspects, elaborate on the significance of the Long March in modern Chinese history and in the constitution of modern Chinese identity.

In the **final exam**, student will be asked to answer one out of two questions. The final exam will cover the entire course content.

Final exam sample:

1. What was the main challenge to the Qing Empire in the period from the late 18th to the late 19th century? In what ways did the empire respond to this challenge? Elaborate on the failures and achievements of the imperial court.
2. How did the relations between China and the US evolve from 1949 to 1978?

Course Materials

(Textbook) R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, New York: Routledge, 2016 (Third Edition).

(Documentary Collection) Janet Chen, Pei Kai Cheng, and Michael Lestz with Jonathan Spence, *The Search For Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2014 (Third Edition).

*A copy of each book is available in library course reserves. Editions may vary, please check the page numbers and content.

**All other readings and documents not included in these books will be available on class website (under “Files” tab).

COURSE PLAN

Week 1: The problem of identity in late imperial China: Manchus, Hans, and others

Aug 22: Introduction

Aug 24: Chinese world order in East Asia

Maps: Manchu expansion and the Qing dynasty, 1644-1911

Reading: Schoppa chapters 1-2

Documents: Nurhaci’s Seven Grievances (pp. 19-21); Two edicts concerning hair (pp. 26-28); Chen Hongmou on “Universal Education,” “Women’s Education,” and “On Governance by Local Elites” (online)

Week 2: Foreign and domestic challenges to the Qing

Aug 27: Foreigners in China

Aug 29: The Opium Wars and the Treaty System

Aug 31: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom

Reading: Schoppa chapters 3-4

Documents: Zhang Xingyao and the Inculturation of Christianity (online); Qian Long’s Rejection of Macartney’s Demands, 1793 (pp. 87-93)/// Lin Zexu’s letter to Queen Victoria, 1839 and letter to Wu Zixu (online); Lord Palmerston’s Declaration of War, 1840 (pp. 106-110) /// “The Ten Commandments” (pp. 122-125); The Taiping economic program (online)

Week 3: Early modernization and the rise of Japan

Sep 5: Self-strengthening

Sep 7: The First Sino-Japanese War, 1895

Reading: Schoppa chapter 5

Documents: Yun Wing's Interview with Zeng Guofan, 1863 (pp. 134-138), Feng Guifen on the Manufacture of Foreign Weapons and On the Adoption of Western Learning (online) /// Li Hongzhang negotiates with Japan (pp. 159-164)

Week 4: Toward the end of the dynastic rule

Sep 10: Kang Youwei and the need for radical reform

Sep 12: Boxers and popular nationalism in China

Sep 14: New intellectuals, new press, new debates

Reading: Schoppa chapter 6

Documents: Kang Youwei, "The Need for Reforming Institutions," Zhu Yixin's Reply to Kang Youwei (online); Zhang Zhidong on the Central Government, 1898 (pp. 164-167) /// Chinese Anti-Foreignism, 1892 (pp. 153-154); Reform Edict of 1901 (online) /// Liang Qichao on "the Concept of the Nation," (online); The Inaugural Statement for the *Eastern Times* (online)

Week 5: Saving China

Sep 17: Sun Yatsen: Reform or Revolution?

Sep 19: The 1911 Revolution

Sep 21: *In-class quiz.*

Reading: Schoppa chapter 7

Documents: Sun Yat-sen's Reform Proposal to Li Hongzhang, 1894 (pp. 155-158); The Revolutionary Alliance Proclamation, 1907 (pp. 187-191) /// Press Coverage of the Wuchang Uprising, 1911; Edict of Abdication, 1911, 1912 (pp. 191-197)

Optional Short Assignment: Write a brief comment on the movie *The Last Emperor* by Bertolucci. Send by email before Oct 1, 2018.

Week 6: Republican China

Sep 24: War and Conflict in Republican China

Sep 26: The First World I and China

Sep 28: The May Fourth Movement

Reading: Schoppa chapters 8-9

Documents: Yuan Shikai, Two documents /// Japan's Twenty-One Demands (pp. 201-207) /// Chen Duxiu, "Call to Youth," 1915 (pp. 219-225); Lu Xun "What Happens after Nora Leaves Home?" (239-243)

Week 7: Post-War Radicalism

Oct 1: The Foundation of the CCP and The First United Front

Oct 3: Chiang Kai-shek and the Guomindang after Sun Yatsen

Oct 5: The New Life Movement and Chinese Society during the Nanjing Decade

Midterm essay prompt.

Reading: Schoppa chapters 10-11

Documents: Li Dazhao, "the Victory of Bolshevism," (pp. 225-228); He Zhen, "What Women Should Know About Communism" /// Purging the Communists (pp. 251-255); Madame Sun Yatsen Defends the Left (pp. 255-257) /// General Von Falkenhausen's Advice to Chiang Kai-shek, 1936 (pp. 287-289); Chiang Kai-shek: Essentials of the New Life Movement (online); "New Life" for the Reds (pp. 305-309)

Week 8: The Guomindang vs. the CCP: the clash of political identities

Oct 8: Chinese Communists in the 30s and the Jiangxi Soviet

Oct 10: The Long March

Reading: Schoppa chapter 12

Documents: Mao Zedong, Report on the Hunan Peasant Movement (online); The Jiangxi Soviet Land Law, 1932 (pp. 290-296) /// the Tale of the Luding Bridge, 1935 (pp. 296-299); Mao Zedong on the Long March and the May Fourth Movement (online)

Week 9: The Second World War and Japanese Colonial Expansion in China

Oct 15: Japanese Expansion in China

Oct 17: The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-45

Oct 19: War and Resistance

Reading: Schoppa chapter 13-14

Documents: The Mukden Incident and Manchukuo (pp. 265-269); Mutiny in Xi'an (pp. 313-317) /// Japan At War (pp. 318-327) /// The Nanjing Murder Race (pp. 332-333); Wang Jingwei on Collaboration, 1941 (pp. 340-342), Mao on Japanese Imperialism (online)

--- Oct 19, 2018, midterm papers due ---

Week 10: Post-War China

Oct 22: The Civil War and the Foundation of the People's Republic, 1945-49

Oct 24: The Korean War and Global Politics

Oct 26: *In-class quiz.*

Reading: Schoppa chapter 15

Documents: Mao Takes Charge (pp. 360-372) /// A-Bombs and Paper Tigers (pp. 394-397); Mao Zedong, “Leaning to One Side,” “Stalin is our Commander” (online)

Optional short assignment: Write a brief comment on the movie *City of Life and Death* by Lu Chuan. Send by email before Oct 29, 2018.

Week 11: Building a Revolutionary Society

Oct 29: Let A Hundred Flowers Bloom

Oct 31: The Great Leap Forward

Nov 2: Sino-Soviet Split and the Third World

Reading: Schoppa chapter 17

Documents: Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among People” (online); The Hundred Flowers Campaign, 1956; Deng Xiaoping, The Anti-rightist Campaign (pp. 398-411) /// The Great Leap Forward (pp. 412-422); Peng Dehuai’s letter to Mao (online) /// Mao vs. Khrushchev (online)

Week 12: Reforming the Revolution

Nov 5: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution I

Nov 7: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution II

Nov 9: Revolution Reconsidered

Reading: Schoppa chapter 18

Documents: Lin Biao, “Long Live the Victory of People’s War”; Mao, “Bombard the Headquarters”; “The Sixteen-Point Decision”; Deng Xiaoping, Self-criticism (pp.445-455) /// The Lost Generation, the story of Wang Anyi (pp. 467-471) /// Deng Xiaoping, “Emancipate the Mind” (pp. 493-497); Wei Jingsheng, “The Fifth Modernization” (pp. 497-506)

Week 13: From Command Economy to Economics in Command

Nov 14: Socialism with Chinese characteristics

Nov 16: Limits of Change: the Tian’anmen

Reading: Schoppa chapter 19

Documents: Deng Xiaoping, “Build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” /// Fang Lizhi and the Party (pp. 541-546); Testing the Limits (pp. 547-565)

Week 14-15: Other Chinas

Nov 19: Movie/office hour

Nov 26: Taiwan and Hong Kong

Nov 28: Tibet and Other Ethnic Questions

Nov 30: Queer China

Reading: Schoppa chapter 21

Documents: Dalai Lama's Nobel Lecture, 1989 (pp. 566-570)

Week 16: Open discussion and exam

Dec 3: Open Discussion

Dec 5: Concluding Remarks. *Final exam prompt.*