

HIST/ASIA 275 HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA

Department of History
Prof. Y. H. Tam

1:20-2:50, T& R; OM02
Spring 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course considers the changes in China's politics, economy, society, culture and international relations from the 1840's to the present day. Major emphases include the impact of Western imperialism, political and cultural reforms, the revolutions, the rise of Mao Ze-dong, and the rise of China as a world power since the 1980's. Special attention will be given to China's international relations, particularly relations with the U.S. and Japan. Through readings, lectures, discussions and audio visual presentations, students will also be introduced to issues in contemporary Hong Kong, Taiwan and Chinese Diasporas worldwide. No prerequisite. (4 credits)

READINGS

Required Books:

Immanuel C.Y. Hsu. *The Rise of Modern China*. Oxford U. Press
Patricia B. Ebrey(ed). *Chinese Civilisation: A Sourcebook*. Free Press

Recommended Book:

Jonathan D. Spence. *In Search for Modern China*. WW. Norton.

And, additional readings will be assigned from other sources.

REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Map Exercise:	5%
Class Attendance & Discussion Participation	25%
3 Oral Presentations on assigned topics (20 minutes each)	30%
2 papers on topics of your own choice (8-10 pages each)	40%
<i>No Mid-term & Final Exams</i>	

LATE PAPERS or PRESENTATIONS

Except for medical reasons or family emergencies about which the Dean of Students has been properly notified, late papers or oral presentation will receive a reduction of 20% in grading.

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

11:20-12:20, 3:00-4:00, T & R; and by appointment.
Office: 303 Old Main; 651-696-6262; Home 651- 457-6529;
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CLASS SCHEDULE**JANUARY** _____**Week of January 23****24--Orientation Meeting: Course Introduction & Self Introduction****26--Geographical Setting & Conceptual Framework of Modern China****Readings:** Hsu. Chapter 1

Discussion topics: Consider the statement “China’s past must be studied in terms of its physical environment.” What are the special features in China’s geography and how do they affect China’s development? What are the shaping forces of modern China?

*Map exercise begins, due Feb. 2***Week of January 30****31--Enduring Features & Quality of Life in Traditional China: Comparison with Europe****FEBRUARY** _____**02--Decline of the Last Empire in China****Readings:** Hsu, 2-6; Ebrey, documents 59-62, 65, 72.**Optional Readings:** Spence, 1-6.

Discussion topics: What are the traditional Chinese view of China and the World? Assess the extent of the influence of Confucianism on Chinese society and women’s status. Consider the characteristics of central and local administration in Qing China. What actually held the Chinese empire together? The strong and able Manchu rule? The Confucian scholar-officials? or the tradition?

*Map exercise due Feb. 2. Schedule of oral presentations to be decided today.***Week of February 6****07—Problems of Foreign Relations in Traditional China****09--The Opium War****Readings:** Hsu, 7-10.**Optional readings:** Ebrey, 68-70.

Discussion topics: Can we take the Canton system as a result of traditional Chinese attitudes towards foreign trade before the 19th century? What are the underlying and immediate causes of

the Opium War? What broad cultural conflicts can be seen in the particular disputes between the British and Chinese that eventually led to the Opium War? Might the particular disputes have been settled without resort to force? How was China affected by the Opium War?

Oral presentations begin this week

Week of February 13

14--The Taiping Revolution

16--The Self-Strengthening Movement: Western influences

Readings: Hsu, 11.

Optional Readings: Spence, 8-9.

Discussion topics: Consider culturalism, nationalism and Christianity in the Taiping Rebellion. What was the focus of Tseng Kuo--fan's loyalty: the Manchu dynasty or Chinese civilization? Did regionalism foster or inhibit change in modern China?

Week of February 20

21--Acceleration of Western Imperialism

23--The Radical Reform: Influence of Modern Japan

Readings: Hsu, 12-15

Discussion topics: The role of the West and Japan in China's quest of modernization: Positive & negative aspects. In Late Ch'ing China all groups professed the desire to save China. What did "China" mean to the conservatives? to radicals K'ang Yu-wei and Liang Ch'i-ch'ao? What lessons can be drawn from the failure of the Hundred Days Reform? Compare the pace of demand for and implementation of reform in late Ch'ing China other countries (such as late Tokugawa and Meiji Japan).

Week of February 27

28--The 1911 Revolution

MARCH

01--Disunity and Revolutionary Fervency in China

Readings: Hsu, 20.

Optional Readings: Spence, 10-12

Discussion topics: Interpretations of the Revolution of 1911: the first true revolution in Chinese history; a political but not a social revolution? Comment on the thought of Sun Yat-sen Assess the significance of the failure of Yuan Shih-k'ai's attempt to restore monarchy.

First paper due March 1

Week of March 5

06--The May Fourth Movement—Searching for Democracy & Science

08--The New Literature

Readings: Hsu, 21; Ebrey, 74-77.

Optional Readings: *Mad Man's Diary & The Story of Ah-Q* by Lu Hsun.

Discussion topics: Comment on the Chinese intellectuals' attitudes toward science democracy and Confucianism. What problems does the "Mad Man" or Ah-Q have? Assess the May Fourth Movement as intellectual history.

Week of March 12

13—Spring Break

15—Spring Break

Voluntary readings of new literature are encouraged.

Week of March 19

20—Japanese Aggression in China

22-- Japanese War Crimes

Readings: Hsu, 22-24; Ebrey, 84.

Optional Readings: Spence, 14-17.

Discussion Topics: Did liberal democracy have a chance in China at any time in the 20th century? What is the significance of the Sino-Japanese war in world history? What kinds of atrocities and war crimes did the Imperial Japanese army commit in China? How the war is remembered in China, Japan, and other parts of the world?

Week of March 26

27-- Mao Zedong

29-- The People's Republic of China & Foreign Relations

Readings: Hsu, 25-26; Ebrey, 85-88.

Discussion Topics: What is new in the PRC? Mao Zedong's image of the future China: China as model for developing nations. Causes and consequences of the Korean War and the Sino-Soviet dispute; implications for Chinese domestic development.

APRIL

Week of April 2

03--The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

05--China's Foreign Relations—The Nixon Shock and aftermath

Readings: Hsu, 27-30; Ebrey, 89-94.

Discussion topics: Assess the significance of the Cultural Revolution. Basic reasons for China's normalization of relations with the United States and Japan.

Week of April 9

10--Deng Xiaoping, the Modernization Efforts & the Growing Pains

12—Rise of China as a Super Economic Power

Readings: Hsu, 32-38, 40-41; Ebrey, 95-98.

Optional Readings: Spence, 22-24.

Discussion topics: Nationalism and Marxism as motivations of the Communist leadership; to what extent are Nationalism and Marxism compatible in the Chinese case? The role of ideology in China: in determining foreign and domestic policies; in uniting leaders and masses. Assessment of Deng Xiaoping as a statesman. The significance of the T'ien-an-men Square Incident.

Week of April 16

17--The Making of the Small Dragons, I: Taiwan

19—The Making of the Small Dragons, II: Hong Kong & Macao

Readings: Hsu, 31, 39

Discussion topics: The basic reasons for the success in Taiwan & Hong Kong. Assess the implications for reunification and US-Chinese relations. The future of socialism in China.

Week of April 23

24--Challenges in China Today, I: Economy & Environment

26—Challenges in China Today, II: Tibet, Renminbi, Taiwan, Democracy, etc.

Readings to be announced.

Free Discussion

Second paper due April 24.

Week of April 30

MAY_____

01—Class ends

[End]

