

HIST/ASIA 275 HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA

Department of History
Prof. Y. H. Tam

9:40-11:10, T&R; M111
Spring 2009

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, Tibet, Taiwan and Chinese Diasporas worldwide. No prerequisite. (4 credits)

READINGS

There are several outstanding general historical accounts but the following books are chosen for most of the assigned readings:

Immanuel C.Y. Hsu. *The Rise of Modern China*. Oxford U. Press
Patricia B. Ebrey (ed). *Chinese Civilisation: A Sourcebook*. Free Press
Jonathan D. Spence. *In Search for Modern China*. WW. Norton.

Additional readings will be assigned from other sources.

REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Map Exercise:	5% of total grade
Class Attendance & Discussion Participation	25%
Reading Summaries & Oral Presentations	30%
2 short papers (6-8 pages each)	40%

No mid-term and final exams

LATE EXAM, PAPER or PRESENTATION

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

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

11:20-12:30, 3:00-5:00, T & R; and by appointment.
Office: 303 Old Main; 651-696-6262; Home 651- 457-6529;
E-mail: tam@macalester.edu

CLASS SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Week of January 26

27--Orientation Meeting

29--Geographical Setting & Conceptual Framework

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 February 10]

FEBRUARY

Week of February 2

03-Enduring Features in Traditional China

05-The Rise & Decline of the Qing Empire

Readings: Hsu, Chs. 2-6; Ebrey, docs 59-62, 65, 72.

Optional Readings: Spence, Chs. 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?

Week of February 9

10--Foreign Aggression, I

12--Foreign Aggression, II

Readings: Hsu, chps. 7-10;

Optional readings: Ebrey, docs. 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?

Map exercise due Feb. 10

Week of February 16

17--The Taiping Revolution & Its legacy

19--The Self-Strengthening Movement

Readings: Hsu, ch. 11;

Optional Readings: Spence, chs. 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?

Topics of 1st paper & oral report due February 17

Week of February 23

24--Acceleration of Western Imperialism

26--The Radical Reform

Readings: Hsu, chs. 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).

Oral presentations this week

MARCH

Week of March 2

03--The 1911 Revolution

05—Warlordism & Disunity

Readings: Hsu, chs. 20

Optional Readings: Spence, chs. 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 5

Week of March 9

10--The May Fourth Movement

12--New Literature

Readings: Hsu, Ch. 21; Ebrey, docs. 74-77; *Mad Man's Diary* & *The Story of Ah-Q* by Lu Hsun; other literary works.

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 16

17--SPRING BREAK, No Class

19-- SPRING BREAK, No Class

Week of March 23

24--National Unification

26--Japanese Aggression in China

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

Optional Readings: Spence Chs. 14-17.

Discussion Topics: Did liberal democracy have a chance in China at any time in the 20th century? Assess Chiang K'ai-shek as a statesman. What are the significance of the Sino-Japanese war in world history? How the war is remembered in China, Japan, and other parts of the world?

Week of March 30

31--The PRC and Mao Zedong, I

APRIL

02--The PRC and Mao Zedong, 11

Readings: Hsu, chs. 25-26; Ebrey, docs. 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.

Week of April 6

07--The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

09--Deng Xiaoping & the Modernization Efforts, I

Readings: Hsu, chs. 27-30; Spence, Chs. 18-21; Ebrey, docs. 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.

Topics of 2nd paper & oral report due April 7

Week of April 13

14--Deng Xiaoping & the Modernization Efforts, II

16--Deng Xiaoping & the Modernization Efforts, III

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

Optional Readings: Spence, chs. 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.

2nd oral presentations this week

Week of April 20

21--The Making of The Small Dragon: Taiwan

23--The Making of The Small Dragons: Hong Kong & Macao

Readings: Hsu, chs. 31, 39; and other readings to be announced

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 27

28—Problems in China Today

30—Modern China in Review, I

Readings to be announced.

Free Discussion

Second paper due April 28

MAY

Week of May 4

05— Modern China in Review, II

No readings; Free Discussion [*Last Class*]

