Course Materials

Available for purchase at Amherst Books:


Other required readings are either included in *A Collection of Readings*, Part I and Part II (available for purchase at the History Department office, Chapin 11), or on reserve at Frost Library, as indicated in the syllabus. Films are either streamed or on reserve.

Course Description and Requirements

This course is a research seminar. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. Some familiarity with modern Chinese history is expected. For general narrative or reference, see Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (1999, 2nd edition) or R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History* (2006, 2nd edition). Students will develop skills in reading, analysis, interpretation, and basic research methods, resulting in independent research projects. The class will meet twice per week for 80 minutes. Class sessions will be devoted to 1) discussion of assigned readings, responses, and critiques and 2) presentation and assessment of various research exercises, in which everyone will be engaged on a regular basis. In addition, 3) each student will design and execute an independent research project in consultation with the professor and make an oral presentation to the class. The grade will be based on the following writing assignments:

- Five concept papers (2-3 pages) 50%
- Research exercises, prospectus, and oral presentation 10%
- Final research paper (25 pages) 40%

Attendance and participation is mandatory; there will be no excused absences without prior permission and/or documentation of medical or family emergency. Regular positive contributions to class discussion will raise the grade; repeated unexcused absences will lower it. Plagiarism or other serious violation of the honor code will result in failure of the course.
Syllabus

Thurs, Jan 24  Introduction: Time and Space

Tues, Jan 29  Past and Present


Thurs, Jan 31  Past and Present


Fri, Feb 1  First concept paper: “On Past and Present”

Tues, Feb 5  Religion, Gender, and Historical Contingency

Vincent Goosaert, and David A Palmer. The Religious Question in Modern China, pp 1-16, 393-404.

Thurs, Feb 7  Religion, Gender, and Historical Contingency

Research exercise: reading data.
Tues, Feb 12  Constructing the Past


Thurs, Feb 14  Reconstructing the Past


Fri, Feb 15  Second concept paper: “On Constructing Historical Narrative”

Tues, Feb 19  Republican State and the People

Wen-hsin Yeh, “Huang Yanpei and the Chinese Society of Vocational Education in Shanghai Networking, *At the Crossroads*, pp 25-44.
Brian Martin, “Du Yuesheng, the French Concession, and Social Networks in Shanghai,” *At the Crossroads*, pp 65-83.

Thurs, Feb 21  Republican People and the State

One Day in China: May 21, 1936, tr and ed with introduction by Sherman Cochran, Andrew Hsieh, and Janis Cochran (Print copy, Reserve).
Research Exercise: defining a topic.
Tues, Feb 26  **Mao Making Revolution**


Thurs, Feb 28  **Mao and Historical Contingency**


http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_2.htm


Research exercise: narrowing a topic and focusing questions.

Tues, Mar 5  **War, Revolution, and the Party State**


Hans Van de Ven, “War, Cosmopolitanism, and Authority: Mao from 1937 to 1956,” in *A Critical Introduction to Mao*, pp 87-109

Thurs, Mar 7  **War, Revolution, and the People’s Culture**


Fri, Mar 8  Third concept paper: “On Wartime Culture and Politics”

Tues, Mar 12  **Making Cultural Revolution**

Carma Hinton, et al, “Morning Sun” (film, 2003), 117 min DVD.

Thurs, Mar 14  **Remembering Cultural Revolution**


Ye, Weili, and Ma Xiaodong, *Growing Up in the People’s Republic: Conversations between Two Daughters of China’s Revolution* (memoirs, 2005), ch 4-5. (E-reserve)

Research exercise: assessing the data and shaping the analysis.
SPRING BREAK


Tues, Mar 26  Socialism, Authoritarianism, and Autonomy


Thurs, Mar 28  Socialism, Authoritarianism, Autonomy


Fri, Mar 29  Fourth concept paper: “On Revising History and Myth”

Mon, Apr 1: First Draft Prospectus Due

Tues, Apr 2  Citizenship and Organization

Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, ch 1-2.

Thurs, Apr 4  Citizenship and Ideology

Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, ch 3-4.
Tues, Apr 9  Citizenship and Liberal Democracy

Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, ch 5-6.

Thurs Apr 11  Citizenship and Rights

Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, ch 7-8.

Fri, Apr 12  Fifth concept paper: “On the Meaning of Citizenship”

Tues, Apr 16  The State and the People: Who Does What?


Thurs, Apr 18  The Past in the Present?


Fri, Apr 19  Personal review: “Comment on Five Concept Papers”
Mon, Apr 22: Second Draft Prospectus due

Tues, Apr 23

   Paper conferences

Thurs, Apr 25

   Paper conferences

Mon, Apr 29: Final Prospectus due

Tues, Apr 30

   Student presentations

Thurs, May 2

   Student presentations

Tues, May 7

   Student presentations

Mon, May 13: Research papers due to the Moodle drop box AND hard copy by 12 noon.