History 172/ASLC 146: MODERN CHINA
Amherst College, Fall 2016
Tues-Thurs 10:00-11:20

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Course Materials

Available for purchase at Amherst Books and on reserve:
Jonathan Spence. The Search for Modern China. 3rd edition, 2013, ONLY.
Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz. The Search for Modern China: Documentary Collection, 3rd edition, 2014, ONLY.

Additional required readings are either included in a Course Packet, parts I and II, available at the History Department office in Chapin 11, on e-reserve or on line as indicated in the syllabus. The documentary videos are streamed and can be viewed from computers on the Amherst campus; DVD and cassette versions are also on reserve at Frost Library.

Course Description and Requirements

This course will survey the history of China from 17th to the 21st century through lecture, reading, and discussion. No familiarity with China or previous experience in the study of history is required. Students will develop skills in reading and using documents, interpretive articles, and documentary videos. Class meetings include lectures and discussions of primary sources, articles, and videos. The first requirement is to read the assigned material and view videos before class in preparation for lecture and discussion. If you know that you will be unable to attend a class, inform me of the reason in advance.

Regular attendance and completion of all writing assignments is required; repeated unexcused absence will lower the grade; and plagiarism or other serious violation of the honor code will result in failure of the course.

There will be an instructor’s drop box for questions before class and an open forum for conversations on the course Moodle site. Questions and conversations may be integrated into class discussions. They may also be helpful in shaping your comments and write-ups. The grade will be based on the following:

1) Five brief comments (1-2 paragraph or in outline form) on issues and sources discussed in class during the weeks marked Comment #1-5 (first or second option) on the syllabus, due on Friday and accepted through Sunday of that week. Use of the Moodle drop box for questions before class, or the Moodle forum during the week, is encouraged (15%).
2) Three 3-page write-ups on assigned topics, due Sept 26, Oct 17, Nov 14 (20% each).
3) One 5-7 page paper on an assigned topic or designed in consultation with the professor, due Dec 22 (25%).
Tues, Sept 6  
**Introduction: Time and Space**

Thurs, Sept 8  
**Ming: Perspectives on People, the State of the World**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 1: “The Late Ming”  
Timothy Brook, *Vermeer’s Hat*, Ch 5: “A Dish of Fruit,” 54-83 (E-reserve)  
*Documentary Collection*, 1.3-1.4: Ming official on the trend of the world and salt gabelle.

**Comment #1:** first option, due Friday.

Tues, Sept 13  
**Qing: New Empire, New World?**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 2: “The Manchu Conquest”  
*Documentary Collection*, 2.1:Nurhaci’s grievances, 2.4: Dorgon to Shi Kefa

Thurs, Sept 15  
**Imperial Power in Global Context: A Matter of Perspective?**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 3: “Kangxi’s Consolidation”  
Tonio Andrade, “Koxinga’s Conquest of Taiwan in Global History: Reflections”  
*Late Imperial China* 33.1 (2010), 122-40 (E-reserve).  
*Documentary Collection*, 3.2: Shi Lang on capturing Taiwan

**Comment #1:** second option, due Friday.

Tues, Sept 20  
**Imperial Authority: Two Ways of Looking at It**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 4: “Yongzheng’s Authority”  
*Analects, Mencius, Great Learning, Doctrine of the Mean*, selections (packet)  
*Documentary Collection*, 4.1-2: “Sacred Edict” and Yongzheng amplification

Thurs, Sept 22  
**Qing Power, Chinese Society and World System: A Point of View?**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 5: “Chinese Society and Qianlong”  
*China Media Project*, 22 April 2015  
[http://cmp.hku.hk/2015/04/22/38664/]:  
“A righteous view of history”

First 3-pager due by noon Monday, Sept 26.

Tues, Sept 27  
**China in the 18th Century World: Three Ways of Looking at it**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 6: “China and the 18th-century World”  
Thurs, Sept 29  China in the 18th Century World: Who Challenges Whom?

Read:  Documentary Collection, 6.1-6.5: Lord Macartney and Qianlong
Comment #2: first option, due Friday.


Read:  Spence, Search for Modern China, ch 7: “First Clash with the West”
Documentary Collection, 7.1-2: Debate over legalizing or banning opium

Thurs, Oct 6  Resistance, Religion, Rebellion: A Pattern?

Read:  Spence, Search for Modern China, ch 8: “The Crisis Within”
Documentary Collection, 8.4-5: Taiping Ten Commandments and Ode; and
8.6: Zeng Guofan’s proclamation versus bandits, 1854
C.A. Curwen, Taiping Rebel: The Deposition of Li Hsiu-ch’eng (excerpt, packet).
 Comment #2: second option, due Friday.

FALL BREAK

Thurs, Oct 13  Restoration, Resilience. Reform: A Pattern?

Read:  Spence, Search, ch 9-10: “Restoration/Reform” and “Late Qing”
Feng Guifen, On the Reform of Local Offices and On the Reform of the Clan System (packet);
Feng Guifen, On the Manufacture of Foreign Weapons, and On the Adoption of Western Learning (packet).
Documentary Collection, 9.2: Prince Gong’s memorials, 10.2: Li Hongzhang and Itō Hirobumi in 1895, 10.3: Zhang Zhidong on centralization vs “republic”

Second 3-pager due by noon Monday, Oct 17.

Tues, Oct 18  Railways, Revolutions, Republics: A Way to Unify?

Read:  Spence, Search, ch 11-12: “End of Dynasty” and “New Republic”
  Kang Youwei, “To abolish the evils of having sovereign states,” in Ta T’ung Shuj, 82-84.
  Liang Qichao, “The concept of the nation,” from New Citizen (1903), Sources of Chinese Tradition, 2:295-98.
Thurs, Oct 20  
**New Culture Needed: Division and Mobilization Part 1**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, 13: “A Road is Made”  
Jerome Grieder, *Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance*, excerpt (packet);  
Lu Xun, “A Madman’s Diary” and “My Old Home” (E-reserve)  

**Comment #3:** first option, due Friday.

**Video this week:** “China in Revolution: Battle for Survival, 1911-1936”

Tues, Oct 25  
**New Society Needed: Division and Mobilization Part 2**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search*, ch 14-15: “Fractured Alliance” and “Guomindang in Power”  
*Documentary Collection*, 14.4-7: Chiang’s purge, Mme. Sun Yatsen’s charge;  
15.1: Hu Shi appeals for Legal Rights  
Brian Martin, “Du Yuesheng, the French Concession, and Social Networks in Shanghai,” in *At the Crossroads of Empires*, pp 65-83 (packet).

Thurs, Oct 27  
**Socialization Needed: Division and Mobilization Part 3**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, 16: “Communist Survival”  
Peng Pai, ”The Hai-feng Peasant Association” (1923), *Chinese Civilization and Society*, Doc. #67 (packet);  
*Documentary Collection*, 15.7: Ding Xian experiment, 1934  

**Comment #3:** second option, due Friday.

**Video this week:** “China in Revolution: Fighting for the Future, 1936-49.

Tues, Nov 1  
**New Culture in War: Is this Revolution?**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search*, ch 17-18: “World War II” and “Fall of the Guomindang State”  
*Documentary Collection*, 17.7: Wang Jingwei on collaboration,  
17.8: Liu Shaoqi, “How to Be a Good Communist” 1939  
Wang Shiwei, ”Wild Lilies” (packet).  

Thurs, Nov 3  
**Post-war, New World: Was this Revolution?**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 19: “The Birth of the People’s Republic”  
*Documentary Collection*, 18.6: Democratic Dictatorship,  
19.2: Marriage Law, 19.4 Hu Sidu denounces his father Hu Shi.

**Comment #4:** first option, due Friday.
**Video this week:** “The Mao Years,” first hour  
Tues, Nov 8  

**New World, Old Voices?**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 20: “Planning the New Society”  
*Documentary Collection*, 20.3: Lu Dingyi on Hundred Flowers, 20.4 Professors speak out, 20.5: Deng Xiaoping and Anti-rightist campaign  
Fei Xiaotong (Fei Hsiao-t’ung), ”Kaixiangong Revisited, ” in *Chinese Village Close-up*, pp. 158-96 (packet).

**Thurs, Nov 10  

**Revolution Reborn**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 21: “Deepening the Revolution”  
Joseph Esherick, *Ancestral Leaves: A Family Journey through Chinese History*, ch 12 (E-reserve);  
Anita Chan, et al., *Chen Village: The Recent History of a Peasant Community in Mao’s China* (interviews, 1984), ch 3: “Studying Chairman Mao.” (E-reserve)

**Third 3-pager due by noon Monday, Nov 14.**

**Videos this week:** “The Mao Years,” second hour; “Born under the Red Flag,” first hour  

**Revolution in Flames**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 22: “Cultural Revolution”  
Joseph Esherick, *Ancestral Leaves*, ch 13 (E-reserve);  
Anita Chan, et al., *Chen Village*, ch 4: “Cultural Revolution.” (E-reserve)

**Thurs, Nov 17  

**Rehabilitations and Reform: Is the Revolution Over yet?**

**Read:**  
**Comment #4: second option, due Friday.**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Video this week:** “Born under the Red Flag,” second hour  

**New World, New Society, New Politics?**

**Read:**  
Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 25: “Levels of Power”  
Wu Guoguang, "The Dilemmas of Participation in the Political Reform of China, 1986-88" (packet).
Thurs, Dec 1  We Have Seen the Enemy and It Is . . . ?

Read: Spence, Search for Modern China, ch 26: “Testing the Limits”
Ye Ren, “The Democracy Movement in Exile is Trapped by Communist Mentality” and “The Way Out for the Chinese Democracy Movement” (packet).

Comment #5: first option, due Friday.

Tues, Dec 6  Economic Reform at Full Speed: Forward or Back?

Read: Spence, Search for Modern China, ch 27: “Century's End”
Cheng Li, Rediscovering China (1997), ch 6: “Who created China’s Economic Miracle,” 93-108 (packet);

Thurs, Dec 8  Back to the Future, or More of the Same?

Read: Spence, Search for Modern China, ch 28: “Breakthrough?”
Kevin O’Brien and Lianjiang Li, Rightful Resistance in Rural China (Harvard U Press, 2006), 116-29 (packet).

Comment #5: second option, due Friday.

Tues, Dec 13  Got Wealth, Got Power, Got People: Now What?


Final paper due by Thursday, Dec 22, 12 noon.