

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

Professor Jerry Dennerline  
Office: Chapin 12  
E-mail: [jpdennerline@amherst.edu](mailto:jpdennerline@amherst.edu)

Office hours: Tues/Thurs  
11:30-12:00, 1:00-2:00  
And Wednesday by appointment  
Phone: 542-2486 (office hours)

**Course Materials**

Available for purchase at Amherst Books and on reserve:

Jonathan Spence. *The Search for Modern China*. **3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2013, ONLY.**

Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz. *The Search for Modern China: Documentary Collection*,  
**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> 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"  
 Mark Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong*, ch 6: "Building the Empire," 86-106 (packet)  
*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 18<sup>th</sup> Century World: Three Ways of Looking at it**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 6: "China and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century World"  
 Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong*, ch 8: "Qing China and the World," 125-42 (packet)  
 Carl A. Trocki, "A Drug on the Market: Opium and the Chinese in Southeast  
 Asia, 1750-1850," *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, 1.2 (Nov 2005), 147-59.

Thurs, Sept 29      **China in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century World: Who Challenges Whom?**

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

Tues, Oct 4      **Why Opium? What War? Whose Treaty Ports?**

**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  
 "Mid-century Rebels," in *Chinese Civilization and Society: Amoy Small Swords,  
 Kwangsi Bandits, Memorial of the gentry.*  
 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  
 Shu*, 82-84.  
 Liang Qichao, "The concept of the nation," from *New Citizen* (1903), *Sources  
 of Chinese Tradition*, 2:295-98.  
 Wu Tingfang, "The Awakening of China" (1908), *Documentary Collection* (2<sup>nd</sup>  
 edition), 190-94.  
*Documentary Collection*, 11.1: Zou Rong "On Revolution," 11.2-3: Qiu Jin on  
 women and revolution, 11.4: Revolutionary Alliance Declaration

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).  
 Mao Tse-tung, "Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art," in *Selected  
 Works of Mao Tse-tung*, Vol III (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"  
 Lucien Bianco, "Peasant Responses to CCP Mobilization Policies, 1937-1945,"  
 in *New Perspectives on the Chinese Communist Revolution*, pp. 175-85 pack.  
*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  
Tues, Nov 15           **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:** Spence, *Search*, ch 23-24: "Reopening Doors" and "Redefining Revolution"  
*Documentary Collection*, 24.2-3 Wei Jingsheng's "Fifth Modernization" and Liu  
Qing's report of the trial: Liu Binyan's reportage 1984.

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

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Video this week:** "Born under the Red Flag," second hour  
Tues, Nov 29           **New World, New Society, New Politics?**

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 25: "Levels of Power"  
Thomas Gold, "Urban Private Business and Social Change," in *Chinese Society  
on the Eve of Tiananmen*, ed. by Deborah Davis, pp. 157-78 (packet);  
Huang Shu-min, *Spiral Road*, pp. 162-173, 191-198 (packet).  
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"  
 Fang Lizhi, "The End of Forgetting History," from *Bringing Down the Great Wall*, pp. 267-275 (packet).  
 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);  
 Schell and Delury, "Entering the World: Zhu Rongji," *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century* ch 13, 325-52 (E-reserve).

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

**Read:** Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 28: "Breakthrough?"  
 Chen, Guidi, "The Long and Short of the Anti-tax Uprising," in *Will the Boat Sink the Water?* (2006), ch 3, 63-90. (E-reserve).  
 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?**

**Read:** "Charter 08" text, tr Perry Link, in *New York Review of Books* 56.1 (Jan 15, 2009) (E-reserve.);  
 Schell and Delury, Ch 14 *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century*, Ch 14: 'No Enemies, No Hatred: Liu Xiaobo' (E-reserve);  
 Elizabeth Perry, "Permanent Rebellion? Continuities and Discontinuities in Chinese Protest," in *Popular Protest in China*," ed by Kevin O'Brien (Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 2008), pp 205-215 (packet);

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