

History 172/ASLC 146: MODERN CHINA
Amherst College, Fall 2015
Tues-Thurs 10:00-11:20

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Office hours: Tues/Thurs
11:30-12:00, 1:00-2:00
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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 **open forum** on the course Moodle site where you may post questions or comments about the documents and articles before class discussion, or continue the discussion after class. You can also read and respond to one another's postings, creating threads. These can be **integrated into class discussions**. They may also be helpful in **shaping your short papers**.

The **grade** will be based on the following:

- 1) **Three 5-page essays** on assigned topics, due **Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 20 (25% each)**.
- 2) **One 5-7 page paper** on a topic designed in **consultation with the professor**, due **Dec 18 (25%)**.
- 3) In addition, positive contributions to class discussion and to forums on the course Moodle site may serve to improve the grade.

Tues, Sept 8 **Introduction: Time and Space**

Thurs, Sept 10 **Ming: People and State, Wealth and Power**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 1;
Documentary Collection, 1.1-1.4

Tues, Sept 15 **Qing: New Empire, New World?**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 2-3;
Analects, Mencius, Great Learning, Doctrine of the Mean, selections (packet);

Thurs, Sept 17 **Imperial Authority: Two Ways of Looking at It**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 4;
Documentary Collection, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1-2, 3.4, 4.1-3.

Tues, Sept 22 **Eighteenth Century Society: The Real and the Unreal**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 5;
Timothy Brook, "School for Smoking," *Vermeer's Hat*, Ch 5: 117-51 (E-reserve)
Documentary Collection, 5.1, 5.6.

Thurs, Sept 24 **World System and World View: Who Challenges Whom?**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 6;
Mark Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong*, ch 8: "Qing China and the World," (packet);
Documentary Collection, 6.1-6.5

First paper due by Monday, Sept 28, 12 noon.

Tues, Sept 29 **Why Opium? What War? Whose Treaty Ports?**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 7;
Carl A. Trocki, "Drugs, Taxes, and Chinese Capitalism in Southeast Asia," in
Opium Regimes, pp. 79-101 (packet);
Documentary Collection, 7.1-5

Thurs, Oct 1 Resistance, Religion, Rebellion: A Pattern?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 8;
Documentary Collection, 8.1-7;
"Mid-century Rebels," in *Chinese Civilization and Society*, #56 (packet).
C.A. Curwen, *Taiping Rebel: The Deposition of Li Hsiu-ch'eng* (excerpt, packet);
Franz Michael, *The Taiping Rebellion: History and Documents*, #347, 354, 366,
H and L (packet).

Tues, Oct 6 Restoration, Resilience. Reform: A Pattern?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 9-10;
Documentary Collection, 9.1-2; 10.2-4;
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).

Thurs, Oct 8 Railways and Constitutions: A Beginning or the End?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 11;
Documentary Collection, 11.1-11.4;
Gordon, *Sun Yatsen*, Ch 2, 6, 8 (packet)

FALL BREAK**Thurs, Oct 15 Republic: A New Beginning or Just the End?**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 12-13;
Jerome Grieder, *Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance*, excerpt (packet);
Lu Xun, "My Old Home" and "A Madman's Diary" (E-reserve)

Oct 19: Video for this week: "China in Revolution: Battle for Survival, 1911-1936"

Tues, Oct 20 Nationalist-Communist Split

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 14:
Documentary Collection, 14.1-9.

Thurs, Oct 22 Modernity, Mobility, and Mobilization Part 1

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 15
Documentary Collection, 15.1-3, 6-7;
Brian Martin, "Du Yuesheng, the French Concession, and Social Networks in Shanghai," in *At the Crossroads of Empires*, pp 65-83 (packet);
Emily Honig, *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-1949*, Introduction and ch. 6: "The Working Day" (packet).

Second paper due by Monday, Oct 26, 12 noon.

Oct 25: Video for this week: "China in Revolution: Fighting for the Future, 1936-1949"

Tues, Oct 27 Modernity, Mobility, and Mobilization Part 2

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 16-17;
Peng Pai, "The Hai-feng Peasant Association," *Chinese Civilization and Society*, Doc. #67 (packet).
Lucien Bianco, "Peasant Responses to CCP Mobilization Policies, 1937-1945," in *New Perspectives on the Chinese Communist Revolution*, pp. 175-85 (packet).

Thurs, Oct 29 Revolution and Socialization Part 1

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 18
Documentary Collection, 17.8: Liu Shaoqi, "How to Be a Good Communist;"
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)

Nov 1: Video for this week: "The Mao Years," first hour.

Tues, Nov 3 Revolution and Socialization Part 2

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 19-20
Documentary Collection, 18.6; 19.2, 4, 5; 20.1-2.

Thurs, Nov 5 New World, Old Voices

Read: *Documentary Collection*, 20.3-5;
Fei Xiaotong (Fei Hsiao-t'ung), "Kaixiangong Revisited," in *Chinese Village Close-up*, pp. 158-96 (packet).

Nov 8: Video for this week: "The Mao Years," second hour

Tues, Nov 10 **Revolution Reborn**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 21;
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)

Thurs, Nov 12 **Revolution in Flames**

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

Nov 15: Video for this week: "Born under the Red Flag," first hour

Tues, Nov 17 **Cold War, People's War? Get Over It!**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 23
Liu, Binyan, "People or Monsters?" in *People or Monsters? and Other Stories of Reportage from China after Mao* (E-reserve).
Merle Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, Introduction, ch 1 (packet)

Thurs, Nov 19 **Legacies and Rehabilitations**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 24;
Goldman, *From Comrade to Citizen*, ch 2 (packet);
Huang Shu-min, *Spiral Road*, pp. 162-173, 191-198 (packet).

Third paper due by Friday, Nov 20, 6:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 28: Video for this week: "Born under the Red Flag," second hour

Tues, Dec 1 **New World, New Society, New Politics?**

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 25;
Thomas Gold, "Urban Private Business and Social Change," in *Chinese Society on the Eve of Tiananmen*, ed. by Deborah Davis, pp. 157-78 (packet);
Wu Guoguang, "The Dilemmas of Participation in the Political Reform of China, 1986-88" (packet).

Thurs, Dec 3 We Have Seen the Enemy and It Is . . . ?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 26;
Ye Ren, "The Democracy Movement in Exile is Trapped by Communist
Mentality" and "The Way Out for the Chinese Democracy Movement"
(packet);
Fang Lizhi, "The End of Forgetting History," from *Bringing Down the Great
Wall*, pp. 267-275 (packet).

Tues, Dec 8 Reform at Full Speed: Forward or Back?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 27;
Cheng Li, *Rediscovering China* (1997), ch 6, and 14 (packet);
Orville Schell and John Delury, Ch 13: "Entering the World: Zhu Rongji," *Wealth
and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century* (E-reserve);

Thurs, Dec 10 Back to the Future, or More of the Same?

Read: Spence, *Search for Modern China*, ch 28;
Chen, Guidi, *Will the Boat Sink the Water? The Life of China's Peasants* (2006),
ch 3 (E-reserve).
Kevin O'Brien and Lianjiang Li, *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* (Harvard U
Press, 2006), 116-29 (packet).

Tues, Dec 15 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 Friday, Dec 18, 12 noon.