

Modern China

Fall 2018
21:510:353
Monday, 6-9pm
Conklin 346

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1. Course Description

Cities have played an essential role in China's transformation from an advanced early modern empire into a modern nation-state and rising global superpower. Under the old imperial system cities served as centers of trade, cosmopolitan culture, and ritual practice. Beginning in the mid-19th century, China's integration into a global system dominated by Western countries transformed many coastal and inland Chinese cities into sites of rapid economic and technological transformation and political and social upheaval. Following the 1949 communist revolution and reengagement with the global economy in the post-Mao period, cities have once again emerged as crucial sites for a developmental drive that has been as destructive and displacing as it has been transformative.

During the semester we will use the case of modern China to explore the following questions, which have relevance far beyond Chinese history: How are boundaries of class, race, and ethnicity established, consolidated, or challenged in urban spaces and institutions? How have the meanings of everyday life, work, and leisure changed in industrial societies? How has modern globalization impacted the well-being and health of urban communities? Who are the winners and losers of urbanization and "development"? How are modern cities policed and what are the politics of "orderly" urban spaces? Students will be encouraged to think about these questions comparatively and to explore connections between China and other world regions.

This course requires no previous knowledge of Chinese history.

2. Learning Goals

1. Develop an understanding of the major events, institutions, and figures that have defined China's modern period (mid-1800s to present). We will examine this broader history through the lens of cities and urban society.

2. Develop critical reading skills. In this class you will be exposed to a range of historical sources, including illustrated periodicals, political essays and speeches, propaganda posters, works of fiction, and films. We will pay particularly close attention to how we read primary sources (primary sources = the historical documents that historians use as evidence when making claims about the past). We will do this by placing documents into historical context, thinking about the background and agenda of the authors, and identifying the key concerns and concepts that appear in a given text.

3. Use our understanding of Chinese history to analyze the country's current trajectory in the 21st century. Much as in the case of any other society or country, history shapes where China is today, where it is going in the future, and the challenges that it faces and will face. Given the important role that urbanization has played in China's recent history, the city is an important site for understanding the challenges that China faces today and where it is going in the future.

3. Assignments and Grading

Attendance / Class participation – 15%

Quizzes (4) – 40% total (10% each)

Short Papers (3) – 45% total (15% each)

1. Attendance / Class participation (15%). Because this is a discussion-based class it is essential that everyone actively participates in every single class session. This means asking questions when something is unclear, engaging with your classmates' ideas, being respectful when doing so, and contributing as much as you can to the intellectual atmosphere of the class.

Because our class only meets once a week it is crucial that you attend every single class session. Any student who misses four or more sessions will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will receive an automatic F.

2. Four quizzes (40% total, 10% each). Two quizzes will focus on the geography of China and important Chinese cities and take the form of map quizzes. Two quizzes will focus on historical content, and will test your understanding of historical figures, events, and so on, that we cover in the class. You will receive detailed information explaining the format of the quizzes and how they will be graded.

3. Three short papers, 3-4 pages each (45% total, 15% each): For each paper you will be asked to do a close reading and analysis of scholarly writing on Chinese urban history. I will give you a handout for each paper which includes a detailed explanation of the topic. Papers should be written in size 12 type and double spaced. We will discuss paper writing in class as well as how I will grade them. If you have any questions at all

about the papers or writing in general, feel free to raise them in class, send me an email, or meet with me during my office hours.

4. Course Readings

Weekly reading assignments will usually include two parts – (1) a selection from the book *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City* (listed as “Beijing” on the class schedule), and (2) a short historical document or a scholarly article.

You will be required to read significant portions of this book for weekly homework readings, quizzes, and class writing assignments:

- Lillian M. Li, Alison J. Dray-Novey, and Haili Kong. *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. ISBN: 9780230605275.

For the first paper you will be required to read significant portions of the following book:

- Paul French. *Midnight in Peking*. Penguin books, 2013. ISBN: 9780143123361.

These two books can be purchased at the Campus Bookstore or from other sources (i.e. Amazon.com). While these books are not available at Dana Library, they can be requested through the E-Z Borrow and Interlibrary Loan services, which are available on the Rutgers Libraries website.

Unless otherwise noted, all other readings are available on Blackboard.

5. Course Policies

1. Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’ disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible.

To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact

the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219, by phone at 973-353-5375 or by email at odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu.

2. Academic dishonesty in this class will not be tolerated. Period. This includes plagiarism, cheating, and any other behavior described in the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy. For this reason it is absolutely crucial that you familiarize yourself with this policy, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment which you turn in: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment. (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (Date)".

If anyone has any questions at all about this policy, what counts as a violation of academic integrity, or even simply how to cite sources on a paper (a topic which we will cover in class), I am always willing to discuss these issues with you. Students who plagiarize assignments or otherwise violate academic integrity will receive serious penalties, ranging from a failing grade in the class to suspension.

6. Schedule

Sept. 10 Welcome to Modern China!

- Introduction / Overview of class

Sept. 17 The city in early modern China (1500-1800), Part 1

- Lillian M. Li, Alison J. Dray-Novey, and Haili Kong. *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City* ("Beijing"), 1-39.

Sept. 24 The city in early modern China (1500-1800), Part 2

- *Beijing*, 41-96.
- Alison Dray-Novey. "Spatial Order and Police in Imperial Beijing." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 52, no. 4 (1993): 885-922.
- **Quiz #1 (Map quiz)**

Oct. 1 The rise of the treaty port, Part 1

- *Beijing*, 97-132.
- “Shanghai’s Lens on the New(s) – 1: *Dianshizhai Pictorial* (1884-1898),” MIT Visualizing Cultures:
https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/dianshizhai/dsz_essay01.html
Be sure to read all four of the sections, from “Picture Windows” to “Drama & the City.”

Oct. 8 The rise of the treaty port, Part 2

- “The Boxer Uprising – 1,” MIT Visualizing Cultures:
https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/boxer_uprising/bx_essay01.html
Be sure to read all of the sections.
- **Quiz #2 (Content quiz)**

Oct. 15 Changing patterns of urban life, Part 1

- *Beijing*, 133-170.
- Michael Hoi Kit Ng. “The Ordering of Crime in Republican Beijing from the 1910s to the 1930s.” In *New Narratives of Urban Space in Republican Chinese Cities*, edited by Billy K.L. So and Madeleine Zelin (Brill, 2013), 113-34.

Oct. 22 Changing patterns of urban life, Part 2

- David Strand. *Rickshaw Beijing: City People and Politics in the 1920s* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), 20-37.
- Yang Nianqun (translated by Larissa Heinrich). “The Establishment of Modern Health Demonstration Zones and the Regulation of Life and Death in Early Republican Beijing.” *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine* 22 (2004), 96-121.
- **Paper #1 due Friday, October 26th. Email it to me by midnight.**

Oct. 29 The city in wartime

- Chang Jui-te. “Bombs Don’t Discriminate? Class, Gender, and Ethnicity in the Air-Raid-Shelter Experiences of the Wartime Chongqing Population,” in *Beyond*

Suffering: Recounting War in Modern China, edited by James Flath, and Norman Smith (UBC Press, 2011), pp. 59-79.

- Translations of wartime Japanese propaganda in north China (12 pages)
- Take a look at propaganda posters from the period of the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945): <https://chinese posters.net/gallery/theme-01.php>

Nov. 5 City and Countryside in the Communist Revolution, Part 1

- Joseph K.S. Yick. *Making Urban Revolution in China: The CCP-GMD Struggle for Beijing-Tianjin, 1945-1949* (Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 1995), 3-19.
- **Quiz #3 (Map quiz)**

Nov. 12 City and Countryside in the Communist Revolution, Part 2

- William Hinton, *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997 [1966]), Chapter 3: Eating Bitterness, 37-45.
- “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (2 pages)
- Take a look at propaganda posters from the early 1950s land reform: “Land Reform and Collectivization (1950-1953),” Chinese posters.net: <https://chinese posters.net/themes/land-reform.php>

Nov. 19 The city in Maoist China, Part 1

- Beijing, 171-208.
- Document: “The Marriage Law of the People’s Republic of China” (3 pages)
- **Quiz #4 (Content quiz)**

Nov. 26 The city in Maoist China, Part 2

- Beijing, 209-262.
- Mervyn Matthews, “Residence Controls in Present-Day China.” *Asian Affairs* 20, no. 2 (1989): 184-194.

- Take a look at propaganda posters from the 1950s: “Campaigns, 1949 – 1965,” Chinese posters.net: <https://chinese posters.net/themes/index.php>

Dec. 3 The city in post-Mao China (1978-present), Part 1

- Ma Boyong, “The City of Silence” (2005) (42 pages)
- **Paper #2 due Friday, December 7th. Email it to me by midnight.**

Dec. 10 The city in post-Mao China (1978-present), Part 2

- “Awesome! China's futuristic ‘straddling bus’ launches 1st road test,” New China TV (2016). Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPdl3uxW3al>
- Jamie Fullerton, “Failure of China's ‘straddling bus’ shows there's no magic bullet for traffic woes,” *The Guardian* July 7th, 2017.
- Ma Tianjie, “China’s New Megacity: The Anti-Beijing,” *Tea Leaf Nation* (May 19th, 2017) (6 pages).

Paper #3 Due Date TBA