

## MODERN CHINA

Spring 2015  
21:510:354  
Monday and Wednesday, 4:00-5:20 pm  
346 Conklin Hall

*Instructor: Molly Giblin*  
*Office Hours: 326 Conklin Hall*  
*Monday, 11:00-1:00 pm*  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history of China from circa 1600 AD to the present. Beginning with the rise of the Qing Dynasty and ending with present-day issues concerning minorities and assimilation, human rights, and global power, we will focus on such major themes as religion and ideology, political institutions and movements, national formation, economic exchange, intellectual currents, sex, gender, and the family, colonialism, migration, and cross-cultural contact. We will examine how such topics played out within local, regional, and global frameworks, and discuss the relationship between broad trends and everyday life. Readings from the textbook and lectures will provide background knowledge as students learn work with a range of source material, including primary and secondary documents, images, music, and art. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct guided original research on a topic of their choice.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Participation	10 points
Primary Source Analyses (5)	10 points
Book Review	10 points
Film Review	10 points
Research Proposal	5 points
Research Paper	15 points
Midterm Exam	20 points
Final Exam	<u>20 points</u>
	100 (total)

**Participation:** You must arrive on time, having completed the required reading for each class. Everyone is both expected and required to participate in class discussions. The participation grade will reflect the quality and quantity of your in-class participation.

**Primary Source Analysis:** You will write FIVE short analytical papers evaluating the assigned primary sources. Papers should be 1-2 pages, and must be turned in BEFORE we discuss the documents in class. Each is worth 2 points.

**Book Review:** You will read a short autobiography and write a 5-page paper that analyzes the subject's connections to broader themes and trends (such as gender, tradition, ideology, and social transformation) in Modern Chinese history.

**Film Review:** You will watch a film that fictionalizes a moment in contemporary Chinese history, and discuss its viewpoint, message, and historical accuracy. You may select a film from a list that I will distribute, or make your own choice – as long as you confirm it with me.

**Research Paper:** You will write a guided research paper in two stages. First, you will submit a **proposal** that contains a topic, provisional thesis, and preliminary bibliography. Then, you will write a 10-12 page paper based on your original research.

**Exams:** Both the midterm and final exam will be cumulative. The midterm will contain two parts (short and medium essays), while the final exam will contain three (short, medium and long essays). The short essays will ask you to discuss the historical significance of figures, institutions, and events. Medium-length essays require you to analyze an image or excerpt of a primary source, in conversation with what you have learned from reading, lecture, and class discussion. For the long essays, you will discuss one of the major themes of this course and its historical trajectories, analyzing its comparative manifestations in various territories and time periods. I do not give out review sheets. Part of your mission as a college student is to develop strategies for note-taking and assimilating information. We will, however, discuss the mechanics of each exam in class, and I would encourage you to visit during my office hours if you have questions about the format or content.

All written assignments should in be 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with citations in Turabian or Chicago style. (We will discuss style, format, and grading in class. If you have any questions, please raise them with me in class, by email, or during my office hours **BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE.**)

You must also submit all written assignments to Turnitin, through Blackboard.

Your grades for written assignments will be based on your submitted work. They are not negotiable. You will not receive extra points for effort. However, if you find yourself struggling with reading, taking notes, or writing, please see me as soon as possible. I can direct you to resources that Rutgers has in place to help students, and we can work together on improving matters.

## **COURSE READINGS**

Weekly reading assignments will usually include two or three components: a selection from the textbook, a few short primary sources (“Documents”), and/or brief scholarly articles. The documents will be available on Blackboard, noted as [B] under each date’s reading. You will also read an autobiography and watch a film, which will form the basis for two of your written assignments. **ALL READINGS LISTED ON THE SYLLABUS ARE REQUIRED.**

You may also choose to buy or rent them from other sources, such as Amazon.com.

### **Required texts:**

R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, Third Edition. Pearson, 2010/2011. ISBN-10: 0205726917/ISBN-13: 9780205726912.

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*, Trans. Leonard Pratt. Penguin Classics, Reprint Edition, 1983. ISBN-10: 0140444297/ISBN-13: 978-0140444292.

One film, of your choice, from list to be supplied by instructor.

Various primary and secondary source documents, listed below (on Blackboard or online).

This syllabus. Please read it fully before next class.

## **RULES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. According to the Rutgers-Newark undergraduate catalog ([http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug\\_current/pg576.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_current/pg576.html)) students may be excused from class due to “illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” If you intend to claim excused religious or extracurricular absences, you must inform me at the beginning of the semester. I will take attendance for every class, and deduct half of a point (0.5) from your participation grade for each unexcused absence. Six unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing grade. Students who miss eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid a failing grade. If you must miss class due to an emergency, please try to contact me in advance.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

This class is both interactive and collaborative. In the interest of working productively as a community, we must all behave respectfully toward one another. Behavior that disrupts other students’ ability to learn is prohibited. This includes holding private conversations during lecture and discussion, using cell phones or computers *for any reason* (except with my explicit permission), working on material for other courses, and intimidating other students from participating in class. Likewise, arriving late and leaving early are distracting to your peers, and will impede your own learning opportunities. Disrupting the class will have a negative effect on your participation grade; frequent disrupters will receive a zero (0) for participation.

### **Assignments**

Except in cases of emergency, and with my prior permission, I will not accept late assignments. You will have ample time to complete each assignment, with plenty of advance notice for deadlines. If you know that you will be busy at a certain point in the semester, you should work on your assignments earlier; you may hand them in before their due date.

### **Disabilities**

Students with disabilities (including learning disabilities) should speak with Disability Services at the beginning of the semester to set up necessary accommodations.

### **Policy on Academic Integrity**

Work that you submit must be your own, and quotations from other authors must be cited appropriately. If you copy the work of others without giving them appropriate credit, or attempt to disguise the ideas of others as your own, you are plagiarizing. Rutgers University takes cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and penalties for such offenses may include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, or expulsion from the University.

All students must sign the Rutgers Honor Code pledge. Every assignment must bear your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.”

You may only use the texts assigned in this class to complete your assignments, quizzes, and exams. You may not use Wikipedia and other Internet sources, for reasons we will discuss in class. If you attempt to use such sources, and particularly if you pretend that the ideas contained in them are your own, you will not receive credit for the assignment.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### **Wednesday, Jan. 21: Welcome to Modern Chinese History**

- Introduction to the course: expectations, background, and writing systems
- See Pronunciation Guide (Textbook, xii)

### **Monday, Jan. 26: Tradition and Identity**

Readings:

- Schoppa: Chapter 1, pp. 4-24
- Document: *Qing Neo-Confucian Orthodoxy*; Village Opera, *Mulian*

### **Wednesday, Jan. 28: Chinese and Manchus**

*\*Guidelines for Primary Source Analyses, Book Review, and Research Proposal Distributed*

- Schoppa: Chapter 2, 25-33
- Document: *The Preservation of Chinese Cultural Integrity*; *The Sacred Edicts of the Emperor Kangxi*

### **Monday, Feb. 2: The Qing Empire**

- Schoppa: Chapter 2, 34-45
- Document: Laura Hohstetter, excerpt, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China*

### **Wednesday, Feb. 4: From Canton System to Treaty Port: The Opium Wars**

- Schoppa: Chapter 3, 46-64
- Documents: *Infant Protection Society*; *Illustrated Gazetteer of the Maritime Countries*

### **Monday, Feb. 9: Rebellions: Taiping, Nian, and Muslim**

- Textbook: Chapter 4, 66-85
- Document: *The Heavenly Kingdom of the Taipings*

### **Wednesday, Feb. 11: Self-Strengthening**

- Textbook: Chapter 5, 86-104
- Documents: *The Self-Strengtheners' Rebuttal*; Zhang Zhidong, *Exhortation to Learn*

**Monday, Feb. 16: The Boxer Rebellion**

*\*Book Review Due*

- Textbook: Chapter 6, 106-123
- Document: Fei Qihao, *The Gathering of the Storm*

**Wednesday, Feb. 18: The 1911 Revolution, The Early Republic, and Yuan Shikai**

- Textbook, Chapter 8, 126-160 (skim)
- Documents: Liang Qichao, *Renewing the People; Ridding China of Bad Customs*

**Monday, Feb. 23: New Culture and the May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement**

*\*Research Proposal Due*

- Textbook: Chapter 9, 162-180
- Documents: *The Spirit of the May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement*

**Wednesday, Feb. 25: The Guomindang and the Birth of the CCP**

- Textbook, Chapter 10, 181-200
- Document: *The Haifeng Peasant Association*

**Monday, Mar. 2: Chiang Kai-Shek (Jiang Jieshi) and the “Warlord Period”**

- Textbook, Chapter 11, 201-220
- Document: *The Dog-Meat General*

**Wednesday, Mar. 4: Revolution Reborn – The Communist Party and the Long March**

- Textbook: Chapter 12, 221-240
- Documents: Mao Zedong, *The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party*, Excerpts

**Monday, Mar. 9: Midterm Review (Mandatory)**

**Wednesday, Mar. 11: MIDTERM EXAMINATION (IN CLASS)**

**\*\*\*March 14-22: SPRING BREAK\*\*\***

**Monday, Mar. 23: Manchukuo**

*\* Film Review Due*

- Textbook: Chapter 13, 241-258
- Film (In Class): *The Last Emperor* (Excerpt)

**Wednesday, Mar. 25: The Sino-Japanese War**

- Textbook, Chapter 14, 260-285
- Document: Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanjing* (excerpt)

### **Monday, Mar. 30: Civil War**

- Textbook, Chapter 15, 286-304
- Documents, Wang Shiwei, “*Wild Lily*,” Liu Shaozi, “*On Inner-Party Struggle*,” and Ding Ling, “*Thoughts on March 8, 1942*”

### **Wednesday, Apr. 1: “The East is Red” – Social Revolution**

- Textbook: Chapter 16, 305-317
- Document: *Hu Feng and Mao Zedong’s Letters*
- Music: Revolutionary Songs

### **Monday, Apr. 6: Two Chinas – The Taiwan Model**

- Textbook: Chapter 16, 319-325
- Document: *Inscription on the 2/28 Massacre Monument*; “The Emergence of the Concept of “Ethnic Group” in **Taiwan** and the Role of **Taiwan’s** Austronesians in the Construction of Taiwanese Identity,” *Historiography East & West*. 2004, Vol. 2 Issue 1, 86-115 [B]

### **Wednesday, Apr. 8: Mao Zedong, The Hundred Flowers, and The Great Leap Forward**

- Textbook: Chapter 17, 326-345
- Document: *Intellectual Opinions from the Hundred Flowers Period*; *Lei Feng, Chairman Mao’s Good Fighter*; *Housing in Shanghai*
- Propaganda posters from [chinese posters.net](http://chinese posters.net) (choose several that interest you)

### **Monday, Apr. 13: Mao and The Cultural Revolution**

*\*Update the professor on your research paper!*

- Textbook: Chapter 18, 346-364
- Documents: *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*; *Red Guard Memoirs*
- Video (In Class): The Gang of Four Trial, 1980

### **Wednesday, Apr. 15: Reform**

- Textbook: Chapter 19, 365-371
- Documents: *Defending China’s Socialist Democracy* [B]; Edward A. Gargan, “China Resumes Control of Hong Kong,” *New York Times*, July 1, 1997  
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0630.html>

### **Monday, Apr. 20: Gender and Difference: Minority Nationalities**

- Documents: Benedict Anderson, excerpt from *Imagined Communities*; Dru Gladney, Representing Nationality in China: Refiguring Majority/Minority Identities,” the *Journal of Asian Studies*, 53.1, February 1994

**Wednesday, Apr. 22: Culture, Commodities, and Power**

- Textbook, Chapter 19, 372-388
- Documents: *Peasants in the Cities*; Leslie Chang, “Factory Girls,” from *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2009), 98-119

**Monday, Apr. 27: China Rising and the Asian Century**

*\*Research Paper Due*

- Textbook: Chapter 20, 390-416
- Val Wang, “China’s Vast Adventure: How the Olympic Games are Changing Beijing,” *Planning*, July 2008, v. 74 no. 7, 28-31

**Monday, May 4: Contemporary Issues – Human Rights, Smog, and Sheng Nu**

*\*Latest date to turn in fifth primary source analysis*

- Textbook: Chapter 21, 417-439, and Epilogue, 440-445
- Document: He Feng, “The Marry-By Date Outlives its Usefulness,” *China Daily*, November 30, 2012  
[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/weekly/2012-11/30/content\\_15972982.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/weekly/2012-11/30/content_15972982.htm)
- Document: Ian Johnson, “In the Air,” *The New Yorker*, December 2, 2013
- <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/12/02/in-the-air-3>

**Wednesday, May 6: Optional Review Session**

**Wednesday, May 13: FINAL EXAM, 11:45-2:45 PM (TENTATIVE)**