

HUMA/HMMA 5470 – China in the Foreigners’ Eyes (Fall 2017)

Professor May-yi SHAW (myshaw@ust.hk)

Class Time and Location: Wednesdays 13:30-16:20 / Room 4504 (Lifts 25-26)

Office Hours: By Appointment / Room 3350

I. Course Description:

Given the growing “China fever” nowadays and the rising global attention on China as the next superpower, this course aims to explore China “in and through foreigners’ eyes” by taking an in-depth examination of the variety of writings and observations – novels, memoirs, academic writings and journalistic reporting – by foreign individuals who have inquired about China and its people, society, and modernity, from early 20th century until now.

II. Course Theme & Readings:

Sept 6	Introduction: Identity Through the Eyes of Others
Sept 13	China Before the Republic: Reginald Johnston – <i>Twilight in the Forbidden City</i>
Sept 20	Portrayal of the Chinese Land: Pearl S. Buck – <i>The Good Earth</i>
Sept 27	Role of the Revolutionaries: Jonathan Spence: <i>The Gate of Heavenly Peace</i>
Oct 4	<u>NO CLASS</u>
Oct 11	China Under Occupation: Uchiyama Kanzo: <i>A Japanese View on China</i> (Chinese)
Oct 18	Rise of the Communist China: Edgar Snow: <i>Red Star Over China</i>
<u>Mid-term paper – Due on Nov 5th at 11pm</u> (Canvas submission)	
Oct 25	The Mao Era in Reflection: Chang Jung – <i>Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China</i>
Nov 1	Cultural Revolution in Multiple Eyes: Carma Hinton – <i>Morning Sun</i> (Film)
Nov 8	Sweatshop China: Leslie T. Chang – <i>Factory Girls</i>
Nov 15	Sino-World Relations Then and Now: Henry Kissinger – <i>On China</i>
Nov 22	Hong Kong Idiosyncrasies: Jason Ng – <i>Hong Kong State of Mind & No City for Slow Men</i>
Nov 29	Student Presentations

*All readings are in excerpts only.

III. Course Requirements:

- Attendance 10%
- In-class Participation & Activities 15%
- In-class Presentation 15%
- Mid-term Paper 20%
- Final Project – Individual for RPG students; Group for TPG students
 - Presentation 15%
 - Paper 25%

➢ Attendance & In-class Participation:

Attendance consists of 10% of your grade, and those who are absent for more than 5 times will NOT pass this course. In-class participation is weighed heavily in this course. Students are expected to complete the reading assignment PRIOR to coming to class and be ready to discuss and engage in class. Near the end of each class, some in-class reflection exercises or activities might also be given to ensure good application of concepts or knowledge acquired in class.

➢ In-class Presentation:

Each week one student-led presentation will take place in class that summarizes the assigned reading material and raises relevant discussion and application questions. While the RPG students will conduct the presentation alone, the TPG students will be divided into groups of two and take turns conducting the presentations. The presentation should be 20 minutes long and include 3-4 questions for class discussion. The order of the presentation will be decided by the instructor.

➢ Mid-term Paper:

The mid-term paper will be a 6 to 8-page paper on a topic related to the first half of the course. A number of paper topics will be given on October 18 in class, and students are welcome to discuss the decided paper topic and content with the professor in advance.

➢ Final Project:

- The final project consists of 2 parts – one 10-12 min presentation and one long paper (10-15 pages for TPG students; 18-20 pages for RPG students).
- The project will be undertaken individually for RPG students and in small groups for TPG students (2-3 people max per group).
- The project will ask you to reflect on an issue – be it historical, contemporary, or something that speaks deeply to your heart – about China from the “foreigners’/others’” perspectives. For example, you may seek to interview a foreigner and compare his/her view on China with yours on the prospect of Chinese democracy. Or you may look into the concept of Chinese “leadership,” “community,” or “business culture” in the perspectives of the Chinese vs. Western.
- The presentation needs to be conducted in some form of multi-media style (self-made PowerPoint,

iMovie, video clips, etc.).

- Please submit a one-page project proposal via Canvas by November 8th.

IV. Class Rules:

- **NO plagiarism!!!** – Violations (including using online translation device such as Google translation) will result in a ZERO on your grade.
- **No use of mobile phone** – i.e. no talking, texting, emailing, or web browsing on your mobile phone. Please put your phone on silent mode in class.
- **RESPECTFUL use of personal laptop** – while taking notes on your laptop is welcomed, non-class-related use such as checking your email, updating your Facebook status, chatting or online chatting/shopping is NOT. Please be respectful and take care of those matters at home!
- **Listening etiquette** – please listen carefully while someone is talking.
- **Speaking etiquette** – please allow others to finish their sentence before you offer yours.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

On completion of this course, students will gain a better understanding of the past and present views of the foreign individuals (scholars, intellectuals, journalists, writers, missionaries, diplomats, etc.) on China, China's relations with the world, and new insights into China's history, people, society, and modernity through the eyes of “the other”.