

Course Syllabus

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Instructor: Lawrence Zhang

Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:30-4:30pm

HUMA 1440: Modern China

Modern China is a concept that is frequently used but often poorly defined. This course will explore the basis for this term – what does it mean to be “modern” and how China can be defined and understood in this context. The course will begin with an exploration of historical development in the Qing, covering the expansion and consolidation of Manchu rule, and then discuss the impact and legacy of both foreign intrusion and domestic instability in the 19th century and the long shadows they cast on the 20th century.

Due to Covid19, there is quite a possibility that we may have to revert back to online teaching at some point this semester. The syllabus is therefore subject to change depending on the situation.

Course Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00am – 10:20am

Thursday: 9:00am – 10:20am

Classes on Tuesday will primarily be lectures. Classes on Thursdays will be a combination of lectures and tutorials involving various activities or discussions

Location:

Rm 1103, Lift 19

Evaluation:

10% Attendance and participation

40% Document assignments

10% Exam question submission

40% Final examination

CILOs:

1. Paraphrase the most important political, economic, social, and cultural events in China in the past 200 years
2. Analyze the causes and significance of the important historical events in modern China
3. Summarize the general trends in modern Chinese history such as the rise of nationalism and Communism so that they may better understand what is happening in China today
4. Compare and contrast the influences of historical and revolutionary legacies to China

Late assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class of the days when they're due, and anything submitted subsequent to the due time is considered late. For each day of lateness, one third of a letter grade will be deducted from the assignment's grade, including weekends.

Laptops & electronic devices:

Cell phones and other devices that will make noises during the class need to be shut off (no vibrating backpacks, please!)

Written Work:

Document Assignment – there will be two instances of this assignment, where you will be asked to examine some of the documents we have used in this course in a critical manner. The purpose of the assignment is to have you engage critically with the primary materials used for this course, and to think about what it means for our understanding of Modern China.

Readings:

David G. Atwill & Yurong Y. Atwill, *Sources in Chinese History: Diverse Perspectives from 1644 to the Present*, London: Prentice Hall, 2010.

Some of the other readings will be listed as “background” which are optional for the course

Class schedule:

2nd Sept: What does “Modern” even mean?

Ho Ping-ti, “The Significance of the Ch’ing-Period,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 26:2 (Feb 1967), 189-95. (PDF on Canvas)

7th Sept: “High Qing”

Rowe, William. *China’s Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 3 – High Qing, pp. 63-89. (PDF on Canvas)

9th Sept: The Manchus

Atwill & Atwill, 6-11.

Background: Di Cosmo, Nicola, *The diary of a Manchu soldier in seventeenth-century China : My Service in the Army*, London: Routledge, 2006, 1-45. (E-book through ProQuest Ebook Central)

14th Sept: China Marches West

Perdue, Peter. *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*. Beklnap Press, 2005. "Introduction". (PDF on Canvas)

16th Sept: Enjoying the Grand Canal

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/qing/tours.html>

Please also look at these two paintings be prepared to discuss them:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/49251>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/41493>

Background: Elliott, Mark. *Emperor Qianlong: Son of Heaven, Man of the World*. Longman, 2009. 68-85. (PDF on Canvas)

21st Sept: Tea and world trade

Atwill & Atwill, 22-31.

Background: Wong, John. *Global Trade in the Nineteenth Century: The House of Houqua and the Canton System*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. 18-31. (PDF on Canvas)

23rd Sept: Opium and war

Atwill & Atwill, 36-45.

28th Sept: Internal rebellions

Atwill & Atwill, 48-58.

Movie: The Warlords 投名狀 (2007)

30th Sept: Foreign contacts

Atwill & Atwill, 64-71.

Day, Jenny Huangfu. *Qing Travelers to the Far West: Diplomacy and the Information Order in Late Imperial China*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. Chapter 1 (PDF on Canvas)

5th Oct: Disaster at the turn of the century

Atwill & Atwill, 89-110.

7th Oct: How do we teach Chinese history?

First Document Assignment due

12th Oct: Revisiting modernity

Cohen, Paul. *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*. Columbia University Press, 1984. 57-96.

14th Oct: NO CLASS (Chung Yeung Festival)

19th Oct: Chinese overseas

Kuhn, Philip. "Why China Historians Should Study the Chinese Diaspora, and Vice-versa." *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 2.2 (2006): 163-72 (PDF on Canvas)

21st Oct: Chinese nationalism

Zou Rong, The Revolutionary Army, trans. John Lust, The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1968. Chapters 1-2. (PDF on Canvas)

Chinese version also available as PDF on Canvas.

26th Oct: Long Live the Republic

Atwill & Atwill, 149-155

Background: Zarrow, Peter. *After Empire: The Conceptual Transformation of the Chinese State, 1885-1924*. Stanford University Press, 2012. "Introduction". (Ebook through Proquest Ebook Central)

28th Oct: The May 4th Moment

Atwill & Atwill, 163-171.

Background: Hu, Shih and Lin, Yu-Tang. China's Own Critics: A Selection of Essays. New York: Paragon Book Reprint Corp., 1931, 1969.

2nd Nov: Warlords and the KMT conquest

Kwong, Chi Man. "Finance and the Northern Expedition: From the Northeast Asian Perspective, 1925-1928". *Modern Asian Studies* 48:6 (Nov 2014): 1695-1739. (PDF on Canvas)

4th Nov: A changing society

Watch the movie *New Woman* (1934), following the script, be prepared to discuss

Movie: <http://www.archive.org/details/NewWomen>

Script: <http://mclc.osu.edu/rc/pubs/nw.htm>

9th Nov: The Nanjing Decade and the War of Resistance

Atwill & Atwill, 208-215, 223-229.

Second Document Assignment due

11th Nov: The Chinese Civil War

Cheng, Victor Shiu Chiang. "Modern War on an Ancient Battlefield: The Diffusion of American Military Technology and Ideas in the Chinese Civil War, 1946-1949." *Modern China* 35:1 (January 2009): 38-64. (PDF on Canvas)

16th Nov: Early years in the PRC

The East is Red

https://archive.org/details/The_East_is_Red

18th Nov: Jumping into socialism

Atwill & Atwill, 248-249, 268-271

Background: Dikotter, Frank. *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-1962*. Bloomsbury, 2017. Chapters 17-20. (E-book through Proquest Ebook Central)

23rd Nov: The Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution

Atwill & Atwill, 283-292

Background: MacFarquhar, Roderick. *Mao's Last Revolution*, Harvard University Press, 2006. Chapters 6-7. (EBook through JSTOR)

25th Nov: Looking forward from the 1970s

Atwill & Atwill, 302-306

Listen: Nixon in China excerpt (Audio on Canvas)

30th Nov: Review/Discussion