

Course Syllabus

HUMA1440

Instructor: Lawrence Zhang

Fall 2023

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Drop-in Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:20pm

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 in what most historians now would consider “early modern,” 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.

Course Hours:

Monday: 4:30pm – 5:50pm

Friday: 12:00pm – 1:20pm

Location:

Rm 1104

Evaluation:

10% Attendance and Participation

20% AI assignment

30% Midterm examination

10% Exam question submission

30% 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 are due. 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!)

Generative AI:

This course will not accept work done used with generative AI (ChatGPT and other similar programs). Anyone detected to have used such methods to generate text for their assignment will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.

Written Work:

The only exception to the above is for the written assignment, I will ask you to use ChatGPT to create a response to a prompt of your design. Then, your task is to annotate and critique what AI has generated. More details for the assignment will follow.

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:

1st 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)

4th 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)

8th 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)

Rowe, William. *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 1

11th Sept: China Marches West

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

Background: Rowe, William. *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 3

15th 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)

Rowe, William. *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 4

18st 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)

Rowe, William. *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 5

22st Sept: Opium and war

Atwill & Atwill, 36-45

Background: Rowe, William. *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 6

25th Sept: Internal rebellions

Atwill & Atwill, 48-58

29th 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)

2nd Oct: NO CLASS (National Day)

6th Oct: Disaster at the turn of the century

Atwill & Atwill, 89-110.

9th Oct: **Midterm exam**

13th Oct: Revisiting modernity

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

16th 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)

20th Oct: Chinese nationalism

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

Chinese version also available as PDF on Canvas.

23rd Oct: NO CLASS (Chung Yeung festival)

27th 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. "Conclusion". (Ebook through Proquest Ebook Central)

30th 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. (PDF on Canvas)

3rd 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)

6th Nov: The Nanjing Decade and the War of Resistance

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

AI Assignment due



10th 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: <https://u.osu.edu/mclc/online-series/new-woman/> 

13th 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)

17th Nov: Early years in the PRC

The East is Red

https://archive.org/details/The_East_is_Red

20th Nov: Jumping into socialism

Atwill & Atwill, 248-249, 268-271

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)

24th 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)

27th Nov: Looking forward from the 1970s

Atwill & Atwill, 302-306

Listen: Nixon in China excerpt (Audio on Canvas)

6th Dec: **Exam Question Submission due**