

CORE 2521/HUMA 2420 Late-Imperial China

Spring 2023, HKUST

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Office hours: Wednesday 1630-1800, Friday 1450 to 1610, or by appointment

This general history course critically surveys selected topics of major political, social, and cultural events and characters in China from the late-Qing (晚清) period to the early years of the Republic of China (中華民國). It revisits and examines some of the important political, economic, social, and cultural change in China between late 18th century to the 1920s, and to review how these changes helped shape the course of historical development in Chinese society, economy, politics, and culture. This is not the kind of history of modern China that you have learnt in high school.

ILOs: Identify major forces of historical development in this period; general knowledge of major historical events and figures in the late-Qing and early Republican period, from around late 18th century to early 1920s; deconstruct and understand the motives behind the official Chinese narratives of various historical episodes in this period; learn about the complexity of historical issues, such as the accomplishments and shortcomings of the Manchu government, the social, economic and political developments of China under the Manchu, the role of opium in the first Sino-British War, the nature and impact of imperialists' invasion of China, the 1911 revolution and its impacts on China, the rise of warlordism in China, and so on; learning the basic skills of writing a history paper properly.

Reading Materials

All the required reading materials (including some of the optional readings) can be read on the course's Canvas website. Optional reading materials could help broaden your knowledge on specific topics, and some of them show how specific historical events or figures are described in official Chinese history textbooks.

Assessment TENTATIVE

1. Tutorial **and/or** assignment: 20-40%??

2. *Final project or* examination: 60%

(**Important:** Details of tutorial (if any) and final project or examination will be confirmed by Week 3)

Class Etiquettes

1. Please do not make any form of recording of class
2. Please do not leave class earlier than scheduled; if it is something important that you need to leave early, alert the instructor before class starts.
3. Attendance to lecture is **not** mandatory. But once you are here, please be attentive and refrain from talking. Also, put all your electronic devices aside during lecture.

The class schedule below is for reference only. Actual flow of the course maybe different from this schedule, depending on the class composition, circumstances and other pedagogical factors and needs

Weeks 1-2: Introduction and organization of the course + China during the high Qing and before the Opium War (State and local administration; land taxation; city and village; tributary system and diplomacy)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, pp.28-42, chapters 3-6; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp.1-5

Optional: Susan Naquin, *China in the Eighteenth Century*

Weeks 3-5: The Opium War (Official narratives and their problems)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapters 7-9; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp. 5-38

Optional: Chang Hsin-pao, *Commissioner Lin and the Opium War*

Week 6: China in Turmoil (Domestic rebellions and its impacts)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapter 10

Optional: Theodore Hamberg "The Visions of Hung-Siu-Tshuen, and the Origin of the Kwangsi Insurrection"; S.Y. Teng, *The Taiping Rebellion and the Western Powers*, Parts 1 & 2; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp. 39-74, 105-137

Weeks 7-8: Foreign Invasion of China (Bible, guns and money)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapters 13, 14, 16; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp.139-145

Optional: Paul Cohen's *Discovering History in China*, chapter 3; Jonathan Spence's *To Change China*.

Week 9: Crises and Reforms (Weaknesses exaggerated, success under-rated)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapters 11, 16-19

Optional: Paul Cohen, *Discovering History in China*, chapter 1; Frank Dikotter, *Discourse of Race in Modern China*; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp. 139-164, 233-256

Weeks 10-11: Revolution and Sun Yatsen,

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapter 20; 李定一，中國近代史 chapter 11

Optional: James Sheridan, *China in Disintegration*, chapters III and VI; Jonathan Spence, chapter 12; 中國國民黨中央黨史資料，"總理史蹟簡編稿"; Marie Bergere, *Sun Yat-sen*, chapters 2 to 6; Zhang Gefei's *Zhongguo jindai shi*, pp. 299-344

Weeks 11-12: Yuan Shikai and Warlords (From order to disorder)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapters 20; James Sheridan, *China in Disintegration*, chapters 3 & 6; 李定一，中國近代史 chapter 12

Optional: Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 13; Chow Tse-tsung, *The May Fourth Movement*

Weeks 12-13: Republican China before 1921 (Turbulence and development)

Reading: Immanuel Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, chapter 21; James Sheridan, *China in Disintegration*, chapters 4; 張靜如，*北洋軍閥統治時期中國社會之變遷*， pp.24-55, 141-187

Suggested Reading

This list of suggested reading is optional reading materials which are intended for those who are interested in reading more about the subjects discussed in this course. They are not mandatory and you are not required to read them all.

Immanuel C. Y. Hsu. *The Rise of Modern China*. New York: Oxford University Press, (any edition).

Chinese edition of Hsu's book: 徐中約著；計秋楓，朱慶葆 譯，中國近代史。香港：中文大學出版社，2001。

James Sheridan, *China in Disintegration*. New York: Free Press, 1975.

Jonathan D. Spence. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W. W. Norton Co., 1990.

Paul Cohen. *Discovering History in China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.

Frank Dikotter. *Discourse of Race in Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1992.

Chow Tse-tsung, *The May Fourth Movement*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1960.

Chang Hsin-pao. *Commissioner Lin and the Opium War*. New York: Norton, 1970.

Chiang Kai-shek. *China's Destiny*. New York: Roy Publishers, 1947.

Fei Hsiao-tung, *Peasant Life in China*. London: Kegan Paul, 1939.

Theodore Hamberg. *The Chinese rebel chief, Hung-Siu-Tsuen, and the origin of the insurrection in China*. London: Walton and Maberly, 1855.

Hou Chi-ming. *Foreign investment and economic development in China, 1840-1937*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1965.

Jonathan D. Spence, *Emperor of China, Self-Portrait of K'ang-hsi*. London: Pilmico, 1974.

Marie Bergere, *Sun Yat-sen*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999.

史景遷：康熙：重構一位中國皇帝的內心世界，溫洽溢譯，臺北市：時報文化出版企業股份有限公司，2005。

簡又文。太平天國雜記。上海：上海書店，1991。

韓山明：太平天國起義記。臺北市：臺灣學生書局，1973。

茅海健：*天朝的崩潰*. 北京：三联書店，2017.

中國國民黨中央黨史資料，"總理史蹟簡編稿". (1940)

張靜如，*北洋軍閥統治時期中國社會之變遷*. 北京: 中國人民大學,1992.

And many more, if you're indeed so hungry for historical knowledge on modern China.
Please contact me for a more realistic list tailor-made for your interest and need, if you do
need one.