

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
His 384: The Modern Transformation of China, 1800-present

TR 3:30pm -4:45pm, MHRA 1214

Fall Semester 2008

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS384>

Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50am, and by appointment

Graduate Assistant: Jonathan Fowler

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Introduction:

How is Modern China “modern”? Can we understand the country’s modern history, if we only focus on China’s response to the arrival of Western powers in the region? This course will examine the political, intellectual and social development of China since ca. 1800. Attention will be given to traditional Chinese culture and society, peasant revolutions, the May Fourth Movement, the rise of nationalism and communism, and domestic developments since the 1949 founding of the People’s Republic of China. Comparing and analyzing a variety of primary source materials, we will write our own history of China and in the end develop our skills in observing societies with different origins than our own.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with historical topics.
- Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- Learn of the fundamental historical development of China from ca. 1800 to the present day.
- Understand better the effect the recent past has had on the modern world.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

COURSE INFORMATION

Requirements:

There will be a “take home” final exam, an ungraded “history skills” quiz, four graded quizzes, and two 5-7 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins) “think piece” papers. The first “think piece” paper will be due in class on **Thursday, October 16th**. The second paper is due in class on **Tuesday, November 25th**. The due date of the final “take home” exam is **Thursday, December 11th at 3 p.m.** in office at MHRA 2111. Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. **Moreover, the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade..**

Internet Access:

I will require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. Please set up these accounts as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note: No “incompletes” will be given for this course, so plan ahead!

Grading:

Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%
Quizzes(five graded)	40%
Final	15%
Class Participation	15%

“Half-hourly” Quizzes

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. **No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit. Quizzes will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant.

Final Take-home Examination:

There is a 6 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute the exam questions on the last day of class, **Thursday, December 4th.** One week later the exams will be due in my office (MHRA 2111) no later than **3pm on Thursday, December 11th.** We'll talk more about this exam later in the course. The take-home exam will be evaluated by the Professor. **Late papers will receive no credit.**

Film Responses:

Film screenings will take place mostly during Thursday class meetings throughout the semester. Prior to each screening, you will receive film-guide handouts featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare well-written and thoughtful responses to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each of 3-5 questions present. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Monday at midnight.** These due dates are listed on the course schedule and on the Blackboard forums themselves. Film Responses will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **Late film responses will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve at the Teaching and Learning Center in McIver Hall.

*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

Weeks Featuring Readings:

Assignment Dates. Discussion questions to consider will be **posted the Friday prior to the related week.** Written responses will always be **due Wednesday evening at midnight during the related week.**

Instructions: Students must submit a written response to six (6) weekly reading-sets of your choice, drawing from a pool of eleven (11) weeks. Answer two (2) of three (3) questions posted. Consider these questions throughout the week, incorporating class lecture material into your reflection upon the reading-sets. Provide two (2) paragraphs of summary about the readings, plus two (2) paragraphs each answering your choice of two of three questions—total of six (6) paragraphs per response paper.

Example: Questions posted on Friday, 5 September for class week 8-12 September. Response to reading-set due Wednesday, 10 September.

Classroom Discussions:

Students will be graded both on their spoken and written contributions to class discussions. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing.

Web-site:

I have created a Web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the semester progresses. Students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for such materials.

Papers:

The two "think piece" papers, to be written on assigned topics, will be based on your readings, discussions and the lectures. This paper is not a research paper; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. **Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

Required Texts:

The following books are required reading for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore or at Addams Bookstore:

1. Spence, Jonathan. *The Search for Modern China* (2nd edition). Norton, 1999.
2. Cheng, Pei-kai, Michael Elliot Lestz, and Jonathan D. Spence. *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*. New York: Norton, 1999.
2. Jensen, Lionel M., and Timothy B. Weston. *China's Transformations: The Stories Beyond the Headlines*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
3. Yu, Hua, and Michael Berry. *To Live: A Novel*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003.

Lecture Schedule:

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGSS AND DISCUSSION
"TRADITIONAL" CHINA	
August 26-28: Introduction to the course. Geographical features of China. Cultural Characteristics of Chinese society.	Reading: Wineburg, "Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts" (e-reserve)
September 2-4: The Chinese State and Society through the High Qing Period.	Reading: Spence, pp. 3-116. Discussion reading: Cheng, Lestz, and Spence, pp. 71-91.
SKILLS QUIZ, Tuesday 9/2	
THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM	
September 9-September 11: China in Early Encounters with Western Powers.	Readings: Spence, pp. 117-137. Discussion reading: Spence article, "Looking East" (e-reserve)
September 16-18: Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. Clash with the West. The Opium Wars	Readings: 1) Spence, pp. 141-66. Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i>
GRADED QUIZ #1, Tuesday 9/16	
September 23-25: Domestic Unrest. The Taiping Rebellion. The Tongzhi Restoration. Students Abroad.	Reading: Spence, pp. 167-214. Discussion reading: Cheng, Lestz, and Spence, pp. 128-149.
September 30- October 2: Self -Strengthening Movement. One Hundred Days of Reform. The Boxer Rebellion.	Reading: Spence, pp. 215-242. Discussion reading: Jensen and Weston, "Qigong, Falun Gong and the Body Politic," pp. 90-111.
GRADED QUIZ #2, Tuesday 9/30	
THE AGE OF NATIONALISM	
October 7-9: The Road to Revolution. Sun Yat-sen and the Tongmenhui. 1911: What happened?	Reading: Spence, pp. 243-63. Discussion reading: Cheng, Lestz, and Spence, pp. 190-213.
October 14-16: The Warlord Period. Testing Ground of Chinese Marxism. The May Fourth Movement. The Rise of Chiang Kai-shek. The Nanjing Decade.	Reading: Spence, pp. 267-374. Discussion reading: Jensen and Weston, "Narratives to Live By," pp. 112-128.
GRADED QUIZ #3, Tuesday 10/14	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH	FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS

FALL BREAK: October 17, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 pm

October 22, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 am

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 23: World War Two: Crisis and Opportunity. The Long March.	Reading: Spence, pp. 375-458. Film: <i>China In Revolution (Part 2)</i>
THE AGE OF IDEALISM	
October 28-30: The KMT Defeat. The Cold War. Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan.	Readings: Spence, pp. 459-513. Discussion reading: Cheng, Lestz, and Spence, pp. 336-357.
November 4-6: The PRC Struggle for Domestic Reconstruction and International Prestige. The Anti-Rightist Campaign. Red or Expert? The Great Leap Forward and its Aftermath.	Readings: Spence, pp. 514-564. Discussion reading: Jensen and Weston, "The New Chinese Intellectual," pp. 265-284.
GRADED QUIZ #4, Tuesday 11/4	
November 11-13: Mao's Increasing Political Utopianism. The Cultural Revolution. The Gang of Four.	Reading: Spence, pp. 565-86. Film: <i>The Mao Years (Part 2)</i>
THE AGE OF REFORM	
November 18-20: Nixon's China Visit. The Age of Deng Xiaoping. Wei Jingsheng and the Democracy Wall Movement. The Trials of Reform and Growth.	Readings: Spence, pp. 589-676. Discussion reading: Cheng, Lestz, and Spence, pp. 447-459.
GRADED QUIZ #5, Tuesday 11/18	
November 25: China's "June Fourth" Crisis.	Readings: Spence, pp. 677-704 PowerPoint Presentation by Instructor
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25th	
NOVEMBER 27th – NOVEMBER 30th	
SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS	
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
December 2-4: Deng Xiaoping's 1992 Tour of the South. Hong Kong in 1997. Embassy Bombing in 1999. 2008 Beijing Olympics. Summary and Review.	Reading: Spence, pp. 705-728. Discussion reading: Jensen and Weston, "The New China, A Different United States," pp. 1-30.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th	
TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS	
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th	
LAST DAY OF HIS 384 CLASSES	
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th	
TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY 3PM in MHRA 2111	



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