

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

MW 3:30pm -4:45pm, PETTY

Fall Semester 2010

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

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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 **Friday, October 22nd**. The second paper is due in class on **Monday, November 22nd**. The due date of the final “take home” exam is **Monday, December 13th 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. There will be no “incompletes” granted in this class, so please plan ahead!**

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.

Grading

Skills Quiz	<i>Ungraded</i>
5 Graded Quizzes	30% (6% each)
Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, general participation)	20%
*Film Responses	(10%)
*Blackboard Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections	(10%)
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	15%
Final Exam	20%

“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

No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class. Instead, you may drop one of your four graded quizzes, only if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have missed one quiz, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

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, **Monday, December 6th**. One week later the exams will be due, both posted to Blackboard’s “Safe Assignments” and in my office (MHRA 2111), no later than **3pm on Monday, December 13th**. 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.**

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Film Responses:

Four in-class film screenings will take place throughout the semester. Films will almost always be screened on Fridays. Written responses will always be due the Sunday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (Example. For the film shown on Friday, 28 August, the written response is due Sunday, August 30 by 11:59pm.) Prior to each screening, you will receive a film-guide handout featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare a well-written and thoughtful response to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each question. These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard. These due dates are listed 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. All film responses are required assignments.**

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

Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections:

Each Friday you will splinter into several smaller groups to discuss primary sources and articles

illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the assigned sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in class. **These questions must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the preceding Thursday at 11:59pm. Print and bring these questions with you to present the following morning among your discussion group.**

Following each discussion you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection or summary. **These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Sunday at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the text that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the text since the Friday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here.

Discussion Questions and Reflections will be evaluated together as one assignment by the Graduate Assistant. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 10 (ten) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

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

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. Papers will be due, both posted to Blackboard’s “Safe Assignments” and in class, on the dates indicated in the syllabus. **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. ISBN: 9780393027082.
2. Atwill, David G., and Yurong Y. Atwill. *Sources in Chinese History: Diverse Perspectives from 1644 to the Present*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN: 9780132330893.
3. Merkel-Hess, Kate, Kenneth Pomeranz, and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom. *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009. ISBN: 9780742566590.
4. Yu, Hua, and Michael Berry. *To Live: A Novel*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003. ISBN: 9781400031863.

Lecture Schedule:

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
"TRADITIONAL" CHINA	
August 23-27: Introduction to the course. Geographical features of China. Cultural Characteristics of Chinese society.	Reading: Pannell, "The China Challenge" (e-reserve)
August 30- September 3: The Chinese State and Society through the High Qing Period.	Reading: Spence, pp. 3-116. Discussion reading: Atwill and Atwill, pp. 2-11.
SKILLS QUIZ, Monday 8/30	
THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM	
September 8-10: China in Early Encounters with Western Powers.	Readings: Spence, pp. 117-137. Spence article, "Looking East" (e-reserve) Discussion reading: Atwill and Atwill, pp.11-18.
Monday, September 6: NO CLASS	Labor Day Holiday. Class Dismissed.
September 13-17: Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. Clash with the West. The First Opium War	Readings: 1) Spence, pp. 141-66. Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i>
GRADED QUIZ #1, Monday 9/13	
September 20-24: Domestic Unrest. The Taiping Rebellion. Further Clashes with the West at Home and Abroad.	Reading: Spence, pp. 167-214. Discussion reading: Atwill and Atwill, pp. 46-58.
September 27- October 1: The Tongzhi Restoration and the Self-Strengthening Movement. One Hundred Days of Reform. The Boxer Rebellion.	Reading: Spence, pp. 215-242. Discussion reading: Merkel-Hess, Pomeranz, and Wasserstrom, "Nationalism and the Torch" in <i>China in 2008</i> , pp. 68-87.
GRADED QUIZ #2, Monday 9/27	
THE AGE OF NATIONALISM	
October 4-8: The Road to Revolution. Sun Yat-sen and the Tongmenhui. 1911: What happened?	Reading: Spence, pp. 243-63. Discussion reading: Atwill and Atwill, pp. 115-119, 148-154.

FALL BREAK: October 8, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 pm

October 13, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 am

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 13-15: The Warlord Period. Testing Ground of Chinese Marxism. The May Fourth Movement.	Reading: Spence, pp. 267-374.
GRADED QUIZ #3, Wednesday 10/13	
October 18-22: The Rise of Chiang Kai-shek. The Nanjing Decade. World War Two as Crisis and Opportunity. The Long March.	Reading: Spence, pp. 375-458. Film: <i>China In Revolution (Part 2)</i>
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22nd	FIRST PAPER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AND IN CLASS BY CLASSTIME
THE AGE OF IDEALISM	
October 25-29: The KMT Defeat. The Cold War. Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan.	Readings: Spence, pp. 459-513. Discussion reading: Atwill and Atwill, pp. 238-245.
November 1-5: The PRC Struggle for Domestic Reconstruction and International Prestige. The Anti-Rightist Campaign.	Readings: Spence, pp. 514-564. Discussion reading: Merkel-Hess, Pomeranz, and Wasserstrom, "Thing Seen and Unseen" in <i>China in 2008</i> , pp. 226-237.
GRADED QUIZ #4, Monday 11/1	
November 8-12: Mao's Increasing Political Utopianism. The Great Leap Forward and its Aftermath. 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 15-19: 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: Atwill and Atwill, pp. 298-319.
GRADED QUIZ #5, Monday 11/15	
November 22: China's "June Fourth" Crisis.	Readings: Spence, pp. 677-704 PowerPoint Presentation by Instructor
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd	SECOND PAPER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AND IN CLASS BY CLASSTIME
NOVEMBER 24th – NOVEMBER 28th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
November 29-December 3: Deng Xiaoping's	Reading: Spence, pp. 705-728.

1992 Tour of the South. Hong Kong's Return to China in 1997. DPP 2000 Election Victory in Taiwan.	Discussion reading: Merkel-Hess, Pomeranz, and Wasserstrom, "China and the United States" in <i>China in 2008</i> , pp. 276-299.
December 6: 2008 Beijing Olympics. Summary and Review.	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th	TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th	LAST DAY OF HIS 384 CLASSES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th	TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY 3PM in MHRA 2111



MAP: (Please note the location of the following cities of Mainland China and Greater China; Tianjin, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Wuhan, Xian, Nanjing, Lhasa, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Ürümqi, Xiamen, Taipei, Chongqing, Kunming, Macau, Harbin, Lushun.