

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

MWF 11:00am -11:50am, SOEB 104

Fall Semester 2013

Instructor: James A. Anderson

Telephone: (336) 334-5209

Office: MHRA 2111

E-mail: jamie_anderson@uncg.edu (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week.)

Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS384> (No longer updated.)

Office Hours: MW 10:00-10:50am, and by appointment

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, five 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 25th**. The second paper is due in class on **Monday, November 25th**. The due date of the final “take home” exam is **Monday, December 9th 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!**

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 2nd**. 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 9th**. We’ll talk more about this exam later in the course. **Late exams will receive no credit.**

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS**Film Responses:**

Five 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, September 13**, the written response is due **Sunday, September 15 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. **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 circulation desk of the Jackson Library.

Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections:

Most Fridays 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. The first paper will focus on documents from *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection* and the *China Monthly Review*, a journal available on-line through the Jackson Library. The second paper will focus on Liu, Xiaobo’s *No Enemies, No Hatred: Selected Essays and Poems* and other course materials. These papers are not full-fledged research papers; therefore, no additional 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.**

Academic Integrity Policy:

Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Please refer to the *UNCG Undergraduate Bulletin/Graduate Bulletin*.

Special Accommodations:

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, <http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/> , ods@uncg.edu. If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, please talk with me before the end of the second week.

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* (3rd edition). New York: Norton, 2013. ISBN: 9780393934519.
2. Chen, Janet, Pei-Kai Cheng, Michael Lestz with Jonathan Spence, eds., *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*. (3rd Edition) New York: Norton, 2013. ISBN: 9780393920857.
3. Liu, Xiaobo, E. Perry Link, Tienchi Martin-Liao, and Xia Liu. *No Enemies, No Hatred: Selected Essays and Poems*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap of Harvard UP, 2012. ISBN: 9780674072329.
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 19-23: Introduction to the course. Geographical features of China. Cultural Characteristics of Chinese society.	Discussion reading: Pannell, "The China Challenge" (Blackboard Documents)
August 26-30: The Chinese State and Society through the High Qing Period. <i>In-class Discussion of Primary Source Research.</i>	Reading: Spence, pp. 94-114. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Document 5.1.
"Practice" Skills/Map Quiz, Monday 8/26	
THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM	
September 4-6: China in Early Encounters with Western Powers.	Reading: Spence, pp. 115-135. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Documents 6.1 and 6.5.
Monday, September 2nd	Labor Day Holiday
September 9-13: Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. Clash with the West. The First Opium War	Reading: Spence, pp. 139-163. Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i>
GRADED QUIZ #1, Monday 9/9	
September 16-20: Domestic Unrest. The Taiping Rebellion. Further Clashes with the West at Home and Abroad.	Reading: Spence, pp. 164-185. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Documents 8.4 and 8.5.
September 23-27: The Tongzhi Restoration and the Self-Strengthening Movement. One Hundred Days of Reform. The Boxer Rebellion.	Reading: Spence, pp. 186-233. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Document 9.1.
GRADED QUIZ #2, Monday 9/23	
THE AGE OF NATIONALISM	
September 30-October 4: The Road to Revolution. Sun Yat-sen and the Tongmenhui. 1911: What happened?	Reading: Spence, pp. 234-254. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Document 11.1.
October 7-11: The Warlord Period. Testing Ground of Chinese Marxism. The May Fourth Movement.	Reading: Spence, pp. 257-300. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Documents 13.3 and 13.5.

FALL BREAK: October 11, Friday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 6:00 pm

October 16, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 am

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
October 16-18: The Rise of Chiang Kai-shek. The Nanjing Decade. World War Two as Crisis and Opportunity. The Long March.	Reading: Spence, pp. 301-432. Film: <i>China In Revolution (Part 2)</i>
GRADED QUIZ #3, Wednesday 10/16	
October 21-25: The KMT Defeat. The Cold War. Communist China and Nationalist Taiwan.	Reading: Spence, pp. 433-483. Discussion reading: Yu, Hua, <i>To Live: A Novel</i> Film: <i>To Live</i>
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th	FIRST PAPER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AND IN CLASS BY CLASSTIME
THE AGE OF IDEALISM	
October 28-November 1: The PRC Struggle for Domestic Reconstruction and International Prestige. The Anti-Rightist Campaign.	Reading: Spence, pp. 484-513. Discussion reading: Yu, Hua, <i>To Live: A Novel</i> Film: <i>To Live (cont.)</i>
November 4-8: Mao's Increasing Political Utopianism. The Great Leap Forward and its Aftermath. The Cultural Revolution. The Gang of Four.	Reading: Spence, pp. 514-555. Film: <i>The Mao Years (Part 2)</i>
GRADED QUIZ #4, Monday 11/4	
THE AGE OF REFORM	
November 11-15: Nixon's China Visit. The Age of Deng Xiaoping. Wei Jingsheng and the Democracy Wall Movement.	Readings: Spence, pp. 559-614. Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Document 24.2.
November 18-22: The Trials of Reform and Growth. China's "June Fourth" Crisis.	Readings: Spence, pp. 615-665. Wednesday Discussion reading: Chen, et. al. (eds.), <i>A Documentary Collection</i> , Documents 25.6-25.8. Friday PowerPoint Presentation by Instructor
GRADED QUIZ #5, Monday 11/18	
November 25: Deng Xiaoping's 1992 Tour of the South. Hong Kong's Return to China in 1997. DPP Election Victory in Taiwan in 2000. 2008 Beijing Olympics.	Reading: Spence, pp. 666-707.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25th	SECOND PAPER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AND IN CLASS BY CLASSTIME

NOVEMBER 26th – DECEMBER 1st	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
December 2: Summary and Review.	
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2nd	TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2nd	LAST DAY OF HIS 384 CLASSES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th	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, Lüshun.