

HIST 283 Modern China
Spring 2013
T/Th 09:30-10:45/Buckman 220

Instructor: Seok-Won Lee

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 or TBA

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Course Description

This course is a survey course of modern Chinese history, from the mid 18th century to contemporary China. The objective of this course is to provide basic knowledge in the field of modern Chinese history and to help students critically approach important historical events in Chinese society as well as reflect upon the ways they have been interpreted in various ways. To this end, the class is comprised of 13 different topics in modern Chinese history, from the collapse of the Sinocentric world and the rise of China in the 21st century.

Course Requirement and Grading

1. One Response Paper (minimum 1000 words) (10%)

Of the reading materials I have assigned each week, you should choose and analyze one or two materials and write one response paper (minimum 1000 words). You can choose any reading materials between WEEK 2 and WEEK 15. However, you must submit your paper by **Thursday class** of the week your reading is assigned.

2. Reading Quiz (20%)

There will be an in-class discussion every Thursday. (10:10 – 10:45) To facilitate in-class discussion and make sure that students read assigned texts, there will be a simple quiz for assigned readings. Students are asked to answer one or two basic questions about the text.

3. The “China in Memphis” Project (15%)

Students (in a group of 4 or 5 students) will work on a group project on the question of how China and Chinese civilization are related to our everyday life. To this end, students are asked to conduct fieldwork research on the Memphis area. Students can visit China-related places such as Chinese community places or interview a Chinese family or Chinese immigrants. Each group must submit a prospectus by Feb 21st. Your prospectus must contain the following elements: (1) the object and objectives of your research (2) the methodology of your research. The output of your research should be in two formats; a formal paper and an oral presentation. Each group will be given about 20-25 minutes for a presentation in class.

4. Map Quiz (5%)

5. Mid-term (20%)

6. Final Exam (25%)

7. Participation in Regular Class and Discussion (5%): If you are absent more than 4 times without reasonable explanations, your grade will result in an F.

Codes on Academic Ethics

Each student in this course is strongly expected to abide by Rhodes College's Honor Code. All papers and exams must be based on your own work. Plagiarism will result in an F in any case. If you have questions on this, you can always consult with the instructor.

Civility and Etiquette in Classroom

To create and preserve a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in this classroom in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning.

1. You are expected to be on time. You should be in your seat and ready to begin class at 9:30 AM. Packing up your things early is disruptive to others around you and to the instructor.
2. Classroom participation is a part of your grade in this course. To participate, you must attend class having prepared the materials for the day. Questions and comments must be relevant to the topic at hand.
3. Classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing. Classroom discussion is meant to allow us to hear a variety of viewpoints. This can only happen if we respect each other and our differences. Any discussion from class that continues on any listserv or class discussion list should adhere to these same rules and expectations.

4. ALL MOBILE DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN THE CLASSROOM.

Disability Services

Rhodes College is committed to providing all students a liberal arts education through a personalized learning environment. If you think you have or you do have a documented disability which will need reasonable academic accommodations, please contact Melissa Butler, Director of Student Disability Services, at butterm@rhodes.edu or call 843-3885.

Required Texts

1. Jonathan D. Spence, The Search for Modern China (3rd Edition, ISBN: 978-0393934519) (W.W. Norton, 2013), 976p.
2. **Electronic Reserve:** All other reading materials are available in a PDF format in Professor Lee's folder.

Week 1 Introduction

Jan 10 Introduction: China, Chinese People and Chinese Civilization

Week 2 China, Chinese and Chinese Studies

Jan 15 Understanding and Writing Chinese History

The Search for Modern China, 26-71.

Jan 17 Rethinking the Sino-Centric World Order

The Search for Modern China, 72-114.

John K. Fairbank, "A Preliminary Framework," in Fairbank, ed., The Chinese World Order (1968), pp.1-14.

Week 3 Society, Economy and Culture in Qing China

Jan 22 Social Transformation in Late Qing

The Search for Modern China, 115- 135.

Jan 24 Opium War (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 139 – 163.

Kenneth Pomeranz, "Introduction," The Great Divergence – China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2000), pp.3-27.

Week 4 Tensions of Empire: China Encounters the West

Jan 29 Collapse of the Sinocentric Order

The Search for Modern China, 164-185.

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Jan 31 Peasant Nationalism (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

Frederic Wakeman, Strangers at the gate; social disorder in South China, 1839-1861 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966), pp. 3-58.

Week 5 Revolts and Reforms

Feb 5 Eastern Way and Western Technologies

The Search for Modern China, 186- 207.

Feb 7 Peasant Rebellions (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 209- 233.

Elizabeth Perry, Rebels and revolutionaries in north China, 1845-1945 (Stanford, California : Stanford University Press, 1980), pp. 1-47.

Week 6 The 1911 Revolution

Feb 12 Toward a New Republic

The Search for Modern China, 234- 254.

Feb 14 Sun Yat Sen (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 257-278.

Sun Yat Sen, "Greater Asianism," China and Japan: Natural Friends, Unnatural Enemies : A Guide for China's Foreign Policy (Shanghai: China United Press, 1941).

Week 7 China's Passage to Modernity

Feb 19 May 4th Movement and Chinese Nationalism
The Search for Modern China, 279-300.

Feb 21 New Ideologies (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 327- 348.

Leo Ou-fan Lee and Andrew J. Nathan, "The Beginning of Mass Culture," in David Johnson, Andrew J. Nathan, and Evelyn S. Rawski, eds. Popular Culture in Late Imperial China (Berkeley : University of California Press, 1985), pp. 360-395.

Feb 21st The "China in Memphis" Project prospectus due

Week 8 Mid-Term

Feb 26 Urbanization+ **Mid-term Review**

Feb 28 Mid-Term

Week 9 China at War I : Japanese Imperialism & Everyday Life

Mar 5 Manchukuo and Japanese Invasion of China

The Search for Modern China, 356- 387.

Mar 7 The Long March and Mao Ze Dong (**Documentary Showing:** China: A Century of Revolution)

The Search for Modern China, 356- 387.

Poshek Fu, Passivity, Resistance, and Collaboration : Intellectual Choices in Occupied Shanghai, 1937-1945 (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993), preface and pp. 1-20.

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 China at War II – Civil War and the Rise of Communist China

Mar 19 Civil War and Chinese Communism

The Search for Modern China, 397- 432.

Mar 21 **No Class** (Professor Lee will present a paper at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference)

The Search for Modern China, 433-459.

- Students are required to read Mao Zedong's "On New Democracy," in Timothy Cheek, Mao Zedong and China's Revolution: A Brief History with Documents (Boston: Bedford/ St. Martins, 2002), 76-112. Two reading quiz questions will be posted by email and you have to bring your answers to class on March 26th.

Week 12 A Communist Paradise? China in the 1950s

Mar 26 Mao, the Korean War and China in the 1950s

The Search for Modern China, 460-483.

Mar 28 Toward the Cultural Revolution (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 484- 534.

Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People," in Timothy Cheek, Mao Zedong and China's Revolution: A Brief History with Documents (Boston: Bedford/ St. Martins, 2002), 127-149

Week 13 The Cultural Revolution

Apr 2 The Cultural Revolution

The Search for Modern China, 535- 555.

Apr 4 Legacy of the Cultural Revolution (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

Maurice Meisner, "The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969" ," Mao's China and After (New York: Free Press, 1986), 330-369.

Week 14 Cold War and Capitalism

Apr 9 Cold War and China

The Search for Modern China, 559- 586.

Apr 11 Chinese Socialism in Question (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 587- 614.

Chen, Jian, Mao's China and the Cold War (Durham: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), 238-276.

Week 15 Student Presentation: The China in Memphis Project

Apr 16 Student Presentation: Groups A, B, C

Apr 18 Student Presentation: Groups D.E

Week 16 China As a Rising Sun? : China Encounters the World

Apr 23 China's Challenges in the 21st Century (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

The Search for Modern China, 666 -707.

Chapters 7 and 10 in Michael R. Chambers, "Rising China ; The Search for Power and Plenty," in Ashley J. Tellis and Michael Wills edits., Strategic Asia 2006-2007 (Seattle : The National Bureau of Asian Research, 2006), pp. 64-103.

Apr 25 Evaluation and **Final Exam Review**

Final Exam