

HIST 205 Section 2: MODERN CHINA

Spring 2009 MWF 2:00-2:50 in Palmer Hall 205

Instructor: Dr. Clayton D. Brown brownc@rhodes.edu

Office: Clough 301, Fridays 3:00-5:00 pm and by appointment

(this syllabus is subject to revision at the professor's discretion)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For millennia the Chinese viewed their emperor as the Son of Heaven and their empire as the center of the world. Following Columbus and the Age of Exploration, however, in the sixteenth century Europeans began arriving in China in unprecedented numbers, precipitating a crisis in Chinese society. This course examines the dynamics of China's relationship with the outside world and the subsequent transition that China made from empire to nation. Modernization continued in the twentieth century and with it came domestic social revolution and conflict with the United States, a legacy that continues to inform our relationship with the world's most populous nation.

COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to offer a general survey of modern Chinese history through use of chronological narrative while also providing some depth by focusing on a limited number of important events and major themes. This is achieved through critical analysis of primary sources and discussion of specialized readings. Through this method and not lecture alone, it is expected that students will gain factual knowledge about China's history while also learning to appreciate the uniqueness of Chinese culture and its impact on the contemporary world.

TEXTS

Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanjing* (New York: Penguin, 1998).

Pa Chin, *The Family* trans. Sidney Shapiro (Honolulu, University Press of the Pacific, 2001).

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution* (Vintage: 1984). ISBN 0394722744

R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*, 2nd ed. (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2005).

(additional readings available digitally on Moodle)

COURSE STRUCTURE

This class meets three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. In the interest of variety, each week will typically involve a Powerpoint presentation, discussion of assigned readings, and documentaries or an occasional feature film.

A schedule of **reading assignments**, including text and supplemental readings, is provided below and must always be completed *before* class. Use the weekly readings guide posted on Moodle to prepare for quizzes. One **quiz** will be administered nearly every week for a total of eleven quizzes, with the lowest quiz dropped at the end of the semester. Each quiz involves five questions covering material from the previous presentation and/or current reading assignments, except for the map quiz based on the map items listed in this syllabus. Each quiz is worth 10 points, for a semester total of 100 points.

Attendance and participation will be noted at each meeting and counts for approximately 100 points, 50 before midterm and 50 after. In addition to occasional **writing assignments**, regular and informed contribution to **discussions**, and the **quality** of contribution will be regularly assessed and rewarded. Persistent silence and unpreparedness disqualify one from participation credit. Be sure to come prepared with textbook and supplemental readings for reference or discussion!

Two **exams** will be given in the course of the semester—a midterm and a final, each worth 50 points of your final grade. The **midterm** will involve identification of terms taken from the weekly lists distributed in class. See the attached Short Answer Study Guide for assistance in preparation. The **final exam** is cumulative and will entail both multiple choice and short answer responses. **At the end of the term, any student with an “A” (93% or above) may opt out of the final exam and retain their A grade.**

The above four assessment techniques (quizzes, participation, midterm, and final) together total 300 points. Current scores will be posted on **Moodle**.

List of Map Items

Reference Maps: See Schoppa front inner cover, Schoppa page 56, and my Powerpoint slides on Moodle.

Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Yellow River, Yangzi River, Pearl River, Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, Gobi Desert, Taklamakan Desert (Tarim Basin), Tianshan range, Kunlun Mountains, Wuhan, Xi’an, Tianjin, Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou (Canton), Hong Kong, Macao, Shenyang (Mukden), Chongqing, Yan’an, Great Wall

POLICIES

In this course we are committed to Rhodes standards: “Freedom of thought, a civil exchange of ideas, and an appreciation of diverse perspectives are fundamental characteristics of a community that is committed to critical inquiry. To promote such an academic and social environment we expect integrity and honesty in our relationships with each other and openness to learning about and experiencing cultural diversity” (Student Handbook 27). In this spirit, this class is to provide a safe space for critical thinking and the free exchange of ideas.

The Honor System: As a Rhodes student you are committed to the Honor Code. Students should be clear about what constitutes plagiarism and cheating, and should refrain entirely from engaging in either. Please review the *Rhodes College Guide to Effective Writing* pages 37-40. Any violation will be reported to the Honor Council which will then take appropriate action.

Disabilities: Any documented disabilities will be accommodated. This should be done through the Student Disability Services Office who will then work with the instructor to make any recommended accommodations for the student. See www.rhodes.edu/disability or the *Student Handbook* page 8. Note that it is the responsibility of the student to obtain any necessary documentation and work through the Disability Office; the instructor merely complies with requests from the office.

Attendance: “Students enrolled at the institution make a commitment to participate fully in their education, which includes attending classes. Absenteeism is not to be taken lightly” (Student Handbook 12). Besides missing participation points, chronic absences will be noted by the instructor and your grade will suffer.

In-class behavior: Any disrespectful utterances or actions, whether directed at the instructor or fellow students, will not be tolerated. Use of cell phones for speaking or texting, newspapers or other unrelated readings, and other distractions such as private conversations ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classroom. During class time, your classmates and the instructor expect that you will be engaged in the course and not serve as a hindrance to teaching or learning.

Making up work: As a policy I do not allow the “making up” of assignments, papers, exams, or even classroom participation. In *documented* cases of extenuating circumstances (i.e. emergency hospitalization) the instructor will make reasonable accommodations.

Availability: If I am in my office with the door open, feel free to stop in. I do teach two other courses and am not always available, but my office hours are Fridays 3:00-5:00 pm; please use that time to visit with me if at all possible. I am also willing to meet by appointment. I do check email at least once a day, and I will respond within twenty-four hours, but do not expect a response the same day. If you have a genuine emergency please contact the department secretary, Ms. Heather Holt, who can then get in touch with me.

READING SCHEDULE

January

Week 1 Introduction to China

Wed. 14th: Introduction to course and instructor

Friday 16th: Read Schoppa pp. 15-25 on "Spatial Identities." Powerpoint Presentation 1: Human and Physical Geography of China

Week 2 The West and China

Mon. 19th: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Wed 21st: Schoppa Ch. 2

Fri 23rd: "Christianity in China" and *Family* 1-51

Week 3 Opium War

Mon 26th: Schoppa 3

Wed 28th: "The Lesson of Lin Zexu," and *Family* 51-110

Fri 30th: In-class video: *The Two Coasts of China*

Week 4 Rebellions and Self-Strengthening

Mon 2nd: Schoppa 4-5

Wed 4th: "Zeng and Hong on Self-Strengthening," "Guangzhou Placards," and *Family* 110-170

Week 5 Empire to Nation

Mon 9th: Schoppa Ch. 6-7

Wed 11th: "Three People's Principles," "Liang Qichao," *Family* 170-227

Week 6 The May Fourth Movement

Mon 16th: Schoppa 8-9

Wed 18th: "A Madman's Diary," *Family* 227-end

*Fri 20th: Midterm Exam, evaluations

Week 7: Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalists

Mon. 23rd: Schoppa 10-11

Wed 25th: *Rape of Nanking* 1-79

Fri 27th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 1A

Week 8: Mao Zedong and the Communists

Mon 2nd: Schoppa 12-13

Wed 4th: *Rape of Nanking* 80-139

Fri 6th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 1B

Week 9: WWII

Mon 9th: Schoppa 14

Wed 11th: *Rape of Nanking* 140-214

Fri 13th: Video: *Nanking* on Moodle

***Week 10: Spring Recess**

Week 11: Civil War and the PRC

Mon 23rd: Schoppa 15-16

Wed 25th: *Son of the Revolution* 1-71

*Fri. 27th: NO CLASS (Instructor in Chicago). Watch *Empire of the Sun* on Moodle or on reserve in Barret Media Center and write 2-3 page critique of the film's historical value—do you feel the portrayal enhanced your understanding of the Japanese occupation of China during the Pacific War?

Week 12: The Great Leap Forward

Mon 30th: Schoppa 17

Wed 1st: "The Great Leap Forward," "Peng's Letter," and *Son of the Revolution* 72-137

Fri 3rd: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 2A

Week 13: The Cultural Revolution

Mon 6th: Schoppa 18

Wed 8th: *Son of the Revolution* 138-208

*Fri. 10th: NO CLASS (Good Friday). Watch *To Live* on Moodle or on reserve in the Media Center and write 2-3 page response paper on how the Cultural Revolution is portrayed in the film.

Week 14 Deng Xiaoping and Reform

Mon 13th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 2B

Wed 15th: Schoppa 19, "The Fifth Modernization" and "Defending Socialist Democracy"

Fri 17th: "Chairman Mao's Ark," "The Computer Bug"

Week 15 Contemporary China

Mon 20th: Schoppa 20

Wed 22nd: "The One Child Policy"

Fri 24th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 3A

Week 16 Taiwan

Mon 27th: Video: *The Blood of Yingzhou District*

Wed 29th: Schoppa 21

Fri. 1st: Exam preparation

Chinese Pronunciation Guide:

- C=ts Cui Jian
- ui=way Cui Jian
- Xi=hs Xi'an, Jiangxi, Xinjiang
- Xu=hsu Lu Xun
- Shi=shr Hu Shi
- Si=sz Sichuan
- Zh=j Zhejiang, Zhou Enlai
- Q=ch Qing, Qinghai, Chongqing
- ei=ā Taibei