



HIST 283: MODERN CHINA

Spring 2010 MWF 1:00-1:50 in Palmer Hall 207

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

Office: Buckman 206A, M/W 2-5 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 international 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 society and culture** and China's role in the contemporary world.

COURSE ATTRIBUTES

This course fulfills requirements for F3 - Historical Forces; F9 – non-Western Cultural Perspectives; and Humanities credits.

TEXTS (additional readings available digitally on Moodle)

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).

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 to complement the text readings, discussion of primary source readings, and occasional documentaries or feature films.

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; thus no make-ups are allowed. 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 regularly noted and counts for approximately 20 points, 10 before midterm and 10 after. Regular and informed contribution to **discussions**, as well as **quality** of contribution, will be 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! Occasional writing assignments such as the film essay fall under this rubric.

Two **exams** will be given in the course of the semester—a midterm and a final, each worth 50 points of your final grade. Both exams employ a similar format that will include 25 short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice questions. The **final exam** will be cumulative but more heavily weighted toward the latter half of the semester. **At the end of the term, any student with an “A” (92.5% or above) may opt out of the final exam and retain their A grade.**

The aggregate total of the above four assessment techniques (quizzes, participation, midterm, and final) will together comprise your final grade. Current scores will be posted on **Moodle**, which automatically calculates and displays your overall score to date.

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. 13th: Introduction to course and instructor

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

Week 2 The West and China

Mon. 18th: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Wed 20th: Schoppa Ch. 2

Fri 22nd: "Debate on Christianity," "Widows Loyal Unto Death," "24 Examples of Filial Piety"

Week 3 Opium War

*Mon 25th: No Class (instructor out of town). Read Schoppa chapter 3

Wed 27th: "The Lesson of Lin Zexu," "Guangzhou Placards," "Description of Examination System"

Fri 29th: *Family* 1-51

FEBRUARY

Week 4 Rebellions and Self-Strengthening

Mon 1st: Schoppa 4-5

Wed 3rd: "Taiping Rebellion Arrives in Nanjing," *Family* 51-110

Fri 5th: "The Destruction of Yuanming Yuan," *Family* 110-170

Week 5 Empire to Nation

Mon 8th: Schoppa Ch. 6-7

Wed 10th: "Three People's Principles," "Liang Qichao in America," "Boxer Rebellion"

Fri 12th: *Family* 170-227

Week 6 The May Fourth Movement

Mon 15th: Schoppa 8-9

Wed 17th: "Intro: A Call to Arms," "A Madman's Diary," *Family* 227-end

*Fri 19th: Midterm Exam, evaluations

Week 7: Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalists

Mon. 22nd: Schoppa 10-11

Wed 24th: *Rape of Nanking* 1-79

Fri 26th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 1A

MARCH

Week 8: Mao Zedong and the Communists

Mon 1st: Schoppa 12-13

Wed 3rd: *Rape of Nanking* 80-139

Fri 5th: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 1B

Week 9: WWII

Mon 8th: Schoppa 14

Wed 10th: "China and Greater East Asia: 1936," "Treaty Between China and Japan: 1940," "Joint Declaration: 1943"

Fri 12th: *Rape of Nanking* 140-214; videos *Devils on the Doorstep* and *Nanking* available on Moodle

***Week 10:** Spring Recess

Week 11: Civil War and the PRC

Mon 22nd: Schoppa 15-16

Wed 24th: *Son of the Revolution* 1-71

Fri. 26th: Schoppa 17

Week 12: The Great Leap Forward

Mon 29th: "The Great Leap Forward," "Peng's Letter," and *Son of the Revolution* 72-137

Wed 31st: Video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 2A

APRIL

*Fri 2nd: Easter Recess

Week 13: The Cultural Revolution

Mon 5th: Schoppa 18

Wed 7th: *Son of the Revolution* 138-208, "Mao's Harem"

Fri 9th: 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 versus the narrative in *Son of the Revolution*. In-class video: *A Century of Revolution* segment 2B

Week 14 Deng Xiaoping and Reform

Mon 12th: Schoppa 19; in-class video on Tiananmen Incident

Wed 14th: "The Fifth Modernization" and "Defending Socialist Democracy"

Fri 16th: "Chairman Mao's Ark," "The Computer Bug"

Week 15 Contemporary China

Mon 19th: Schoppa 20

Wed 21st: "The One Child Policy," "2008, China Stand Up!" and watch Youtube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSTYhYkASsA>

Fri 23rd: "AIDS in China," Video: *The Blood of Yingzhou District*

Week 16 Taiwan

Mon 26th: Schoppa 21

Wed 28th: Exam preparation

