HISTORY 373: Modern China
Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:40 - 4:10 P.M. (P Hour), Buckman 329

Required texts:

- Chang, Jung.  *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*
- Spence, Jonathan.  *God’s Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan*
- Spence, Jonathan.  *The Search for Modern China*
- Zha, Jianying.  *China Pop*

This course examines China’s transformation from the traditional society of the late imperial period to the revolutionary society of the current era. Beginning with an overview of Chinese traditional society prior to the nineteenth century, we will then explore the intrusion of Western powers and the collapse of China’s imperial system. This will lead us to the study of China’s attempts at integration and stabilization in the face of regional warlordism and foreign invasion. Finally, an important focus will be China’s civil war and the history of the People’s Republic to the present day. Throughout the course we will consider significant patterns of tradition and change that have shaped events in the history of the world’s most populous nation.

Requirements for the course include:

1. Regular class attendance and alert participation
2. Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials and intelligent assessment of audiovisual resources
3. One short paper (a minimum of 1800 words in the paper’s text)
4. One research paper (a minimum of 6000 words in the paper’s text)
5. Three exams (including the final exam)

Additional quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short writing assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audiovisual materials. Papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. **Late work will not be accepted.** For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. **Errors of this type will be penalized.** If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness. **Always keep a hard copy (a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper.**

Thoughtful classroom participation is encouraged and will be considered in the calculation of the final grade for the course. Excessive absences and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom may result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed;
excessive absences (i.e., 6 or more) will result in the student being dropped from the course or in an “F” for the final course grade. A good rule of thumb: Do not expect to get a final grade higher than the percentage of classes you attended (e.g.: If you attend 80% of all scheduled class meetings, you should not expect a final grade higher than 80% -- a B-). Final grades will be based approximately 75% on written work and approximately 25% on classroom participation.

Extra credit will not be permitted. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented reasons; if you are wondering if your excuse is legitimate, it probably is not. Note that a “W” (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes honor code. Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the college. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else’s information/material without properly citing the source of that information/material). You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not. Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and exams. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Extreme instances of similarities in exams or papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

The following research tools (for your research paper) are on reserve in Burrow Library:

  This general history is much like Spence’s book. Its advantage is that at the end of each chapter there is a substantial bibliography -- a good place to start once you have chosen a research topic.

- Arthur W. Hummel, ed. *Eminent Chinese of the Ch’ing Period*
  This large biographical dictionary uses the Wade-Giles system, so that Lin Zexu would be listed under Lin Tse-hsü. *The Spence book has a handy conversion chart (Pinyin to Wade-Giles) on pp. xxvi-xxvii.*

- Lo-shu Fu, trans. *A Documentary Chronicle of Sino-Western Relations, 1644-1820*
  This is a collection of documents, translated into English, dealing with the Qing dynasty’s relations with Western powers up to 1820. *These documents are important primary sources for this topic.* Again, the Wade-Giles system of romanization is used.

- *The Cambridge History of China*, vols. 10-11 (Late Ch’ing), 12-13 (Republican China), 14-15 (The People’s Republic)
  This massive work covers almost the entire period that we are considering in class, and is *an excellent research tool that provides an overview of the most recent scholarship*.

  This is a huge selection of documents, all translated into English. It will be particularly useful to those doing research on post-1949 China. *This is particularly important in that it provides primary sources.* The volumes in the
vol. 1: From Liberation to Crisis
vol. 2: The Great Leap Forward and Its Aftermath
vol. 3: The Cultural Revolution, Part I
vol. 4: The Cultural Revolution, Part II
vol. 5: After the Cultural Revolution

This is a documentary history containing translations of 72 important documents (again, primary sources) dealing with the early years of the Cultural Revolution, and so can be used as a supplement to the preceding collection.

**SYLLABUS**

The syllabus tells you which pages are to be completed prior to that day’s class.

**Week 1**

Jan. 14  Th  Introduction to the Course and Texts, along with Some Important Concepts

PLAN AHEAD: Your first short paper (a minimum of 1800 words in the paper’s text, double-spaced) is due on Tuesday, 2 February. This paper should be an examination of Spence’s study of the Taiping Rebellion, its. Some questions to consider could be: In Spence’s view, what kind of a movement was the Taiping Rebellion? How does Spence present the viewpoints of the Taiping Rebels? Of the Taiping movement.

**Week 2**

Jan. 19  Tu  The Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties
READING:  Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, xix-xxvii, 3-73

21  Th  The “High” Qing
READING:  Spence, 74-116

**Week 3**

Jan. 26  Tu  China’s Confucian Society during the Late Imperial Period
READING:  “Family Instructions” and “Genealogy Rules” (handout)

28  Th  The Crisis with the West: The Opium War
READING:  Spence, 117-164
Week 4

Feb. 02 Tu  The Internal Crisis: The Taiping Rebellion  
READING: Spence, *God’s Chinese Son*, *entire*  
SHORT PAPER DUE

04 Th  Restoration and Foreign Aggression  
READING: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 194-244

Week 5

Feb. 09 Tu  Dynastic Reform and the End of the Qing Dynasty  
READING: Spence, 245-268  
PAPER TOPIC and INITIAL OUTLINE DUE

11 Th  The Republican Revolution and the Problem of Warlordism  
READING: Spence, 271-299  
Chang, 21-42

Week 6

Feb. 16 Tu  FIRST EXAM (bring bluebooks)

18 Th  Society in Early Republican China  
READING: Pruitt, *entire*  
--be prepared to discuss this book

Week 7

Feb. 23 Tu  The Urban Intellectual Revolution  
READING: Spence, 300-333  
Lu Xun, “Kong Yiji” and “Medicine” (handout)

25 Th  Ideological Divergence and National Unification  
READING: Spence, 334-370

Week 8

Mar. 02 Tu  The Nanjing Decade  
READING: Spence, 370-434

04 Th  The Nanjing Decade (continued)  
READING: Chang, 43-61  
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE (at least 10 sources)

Mar. 09 Tu  SPRING RECESS -- NO CLASS
11    Th  SPRING RECESS -- NO CLASS

Week 9

Mar.  16  Tu  The War with Japan
       READING:  Spence, 437-483

18    Th  The War with Japan (continued)
       READING:  Chang, 62-74

Week 10

Mar.  23  Tu  SECOND EXAM (bring bluebooks)

25    Th  The Chinese Civil War
       READING:  Spence, 484-540
             Chang, 75-139

Week 11

Mar.  30  Tu  The Early Years of the People’s Republic
       READING:  Spence, 541-573
             Chang, 140-255

Apr.  01  Th  EASTER RECESS -- NO CLASS

Week 12

Apr.  06  Tu  The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
       READING:  Spence, 574-617

08    Th  The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (continued)
       READING:  Chang, 256-443

Week 13

Apr.  13  Tu  Mao’s Last Years
       READING:  Spence, 621-652
             Chang, 444-494

15    Th  China after Mao
       READING:  Spence, 653-682
             Chang, 495-508

Week 14
Apr. 20  Tu  China under Deng Xiaoping  
READING:  Spence, 683-711  
**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

22  Th  The Last Years of Deng Xiaoping and Beyond  
READING:  Spence, 712-747

Week 15

Apr. 27  Tu  Changes in Modern Chinese Society  
READING:  Zha, 3-104

29  Th  Changes in Modern Chinese Society (continued)  
READING:  Zha, 105-210

Exam week

May 03  M  **THIRD EXAM** (bring bluebooks)  
(5:30 - 8:00 PM)