2013

HIST 347-01 History of Modern China

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Course Description:

The course surveys modern Chinese history from the 18th century to the 20th century and explores the historical transformations that have led to the development of modern China. The course opens with an examination of the last dynasty in Chinese history, the Qing dynasty, and then explores the forces, both internal and external, that drives China towards the twentieth century.

Course Requirements:

1) Class participation 10%
2) Quizzes 10%
3) Mid-term exam 25%
4) Final exam 25%
5) 8-10 page paper 30%

Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Each student is expected to attend the class fully prepared and participate in discussion. The Exams (Midterm and Final) will cover the class readings and lectures. The format will be identification, and essay questions.

Final Paper: Students have to declare the paper topic no later than week Eleven after consulting with the instructor. The instructor will spell out the format of paper in class, and students can choose their own topics. The length is 8-10 pages and is due on the week of the final exam. There will be two in-class quizzes in week four and twelve (5% each); the format will be identification questions.

Required readings:

1. Jonathan Spence, Search for Modern China (2nd ed., Norton, 1999)
* Other readings will be posted on Blackboard website
Course Schedule  (subject to change)

Week 1

8/26  Course Introduction

8/28  China in the Early 17th Century- An Overview
      Spence Ch.1
      Craig Clunas, Superfluous Things: Material Culture and Social Status in
      Early Modern China, p.91-115

8/30  Horizontal Comparison / Contrast: China and Europe in the 17th Century

Week 2

9/2   Labor Day no class

9/4   Rise of the Manchus
      Spence, Ch.2

9/6   The Splendor of the High Qing: The late Kangxi, Yongzheng and
      Qianlong Reign, late 17th to late 18th Century
      Spence, Ch. 3, 4

Week 3

9/9   The Splendor of the High Qing II: Social/Cultural Development during
      the Eighteenth Century
      Naquin & Rawski, Ch.2, 3

9/11  The Splendor of the High Qing III: Intellectual Development during the
      Period
      Spence, Ch.5
      De Bary, p.3-39

9/13  Discussion: What did Manchus accomplish in the High Qing period?

Week 4

9/16  Early East-West Contact: Jesuits, Traders, and the “Canton System”
      Spence, Ch.6
      De Bary, p.142-154

9/18  Signs of Decay: Chinese Society in the Latter Part of the Eighteenth
Discussion: What factors accounted for China’s decline since the eighteenth century? (*quiz 1)

Week 5

9/23 The Opium Wars and the Unequal Treaty System
Spence, Ch.7
Teng, p.24-27; Peyrefitte, p.195-197; p.289-292

9/25 The Mid-Century Rebellion: Taiping, Nian, and Muslim
Spence, Ch.8
De Bary, p.213-230
Spence, God’s Chinese Son, p.34-65 (suggested)

9/27 Discussion: What are China’s long-term historical trends in the 19th century?

Week 6

9/30 The Self-Strengthening Movement: First Modernization Efforts 1860-1894
Spence, Ch.9
De Bary, P.233-249

10/2 Foreign Relations 1860s-1894
War with Japan, 1894-1895: The World Turned Upside Down

10/4 Discussion: Self-strengthening Movement: a success?

Week 7

10/7 Cultural Revolution- I: Reformist Thought and the Transitional Generation of the 1890s
De Bary, p.250-273
Benjamin Schwartz, Yen Fu, p.42-90

10/9 The Hundred Days of Reform
Spence, Ch.10
De Bary, p.280-298; 308-313

10/11 Discussion: Constitutional democracy: a rational choice for China?
Week 8

10/14   Midterm Examination

10/16   The Last Decade of the Dynasty – The Boxer Uprising and the Last Qing Reform Attempt  
        Spence, Ch.11  
        Paul Cohen, History in Three Keys, p.14-56 (suggested)

10/18   The Republican Revolution of 1911 and its Aftermath  
        Spence, Ch.12  
        De Bary, p.314-330

Week 9

10/21   Screening: 1911 (sections)

10/23   The Early Republican Era —Political and Social Development  
        Spence, Ch.13  
        De Bary, p.336-344

10/25   Discussion: Was the republican revolution inevitable?

Week 10

10/28   Cultural Revolution II—The “May Fourth Era” and “New Culture”  
        Lu Xun, Selections of Short Stories  
        De Bary, p.352-363; 366-377

10/30   The Northern Expedition, 1926-1928 and the Rise of the CCP  
        Spence, Ch.14  
        De Bary, p.404-416

11/1    Discussion: What made Lu Xun the patron figure of modern Chinese literature? (paper topic due)

Week 11

11/4    The Nanjing Decade, 1928-1937  
        Spence, Ch. 15, 16

11/6    The War of Resistance, 1937-1945 and the Development of CCP  
        Spence, Ch. 17

11/8    Discussion: Did Chiang Kai-shek’s Nanjing regime accomplish anything?
Week 12

11/11  The Nationalist-Communist Civil War to the Early Years of the PRC
       Spence, Ch.18, 19

11/13  The Turbulent Fifties – Anti-Rightist Movement and Great Leap Forward
       Spence, Ch. 20
       De Bary, p.458-464

11/15  Discussion: *One party, one voice?* (*quiz 2*)

Week 13

11/18  China in the Early Sixties
       Spence, 21

       Spence, Ch.22

11/22  Discussion: *China in the Cold War*

Week 14

11/25  What is Maoism?
       Gentzler, p.334-367

11/27  *Thanksgiving no class*

11/29  *Thanksgiving no class*

Week 15

12/2   Reform and Open-up since the Late Seventies
       Spence, Ch. 23, 24
       De Bary, p.488-491

12/4   Contemporary China—Since the Nineties
       Spence, Ch.26, 27

12/6   Discussion: *Has market Leninism worked in China?*

Week 16

12/9   Discussion: *Is China the next super power?*
12/11 Review session

Final Examination (paper due)