

Syllabus
HIST 392 MODERN CHINA

THE COURSE

The official catalogue description of this course is as follows:

This course explores the social, political, economic, and cultural changes in China from to the rise of the Ch'ing [Qing] Dynasty to 1949

We will, of course fulfill those expectations and requirements. But hopefully this will be a rich and multi-layered cultural and historical experience for you that will lead you to some understanding of both the Historical China and the contemporary China.

After completing this course:

- Students will understand and describe the historical factors that lead to the rise of the Qing Dynasty and its multi-cultural rule of china from 1644 - 1911.
- Students will appraise the various policies of the 19th and early 20th century crises China faced and the internal and external factors that caused or contributed to the disintegration of civil and political unity in China.
- Students will analyze the advent of Republican China and its reasons for failure.
- Students will be able to identify some of the internal and external factors that contributed to the survival and eventual success of the Chinese Communist Party in establishing itself as the unchallenged political, economic and social authority in 1949.

COURSE TEXTS

The following books are **REQUIRED** readings for this semester.

Richard J. Smith, ***China's Cultural Heritage: The Qing Dynasty, 1644-1912*** (Paperback), Westview Press; 2 edition (June 1, 1994) ISBN-10: 0813313473.

Susan Mann, ***The Talented Women of the Zhang Family***, University of California Press; 1st edition (September 28, 2007) ISBN-10: 0520250907.

W Hanes III and Frank Sanello, ***The Opium War,s*** Sourcebooks, Inc. (February 1, 2004) ISBN-10: 1402201494.

Lao She, (Jean M. James, trans.), *Richshaw* (*Lo-t'o Hsiang Tzu*, University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu, 1979.

Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*, Routledge; 1st edition (December 1, 2005), ISBN-10: 0415364485

These books will constitute the major body of material and ideas that we will be discussing and dealing with this semester. They will also provide you with the raw materials of your out-of-class writing assignments and your examinations.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Below is a calendar of your reading assignments, class assignments, and examinations. Unless otherwise altered, this schedule will be followed. It is incumbent upon you to KNOW THESE SCHEDULES because failure to do so does not constitute a legitimate excuse for not fulfilling your responsibilities in a timely fashion.

Date	Reading	Other
August 28	Introduction,	
September 4	Smith, chapters 1,2 & 3	Map Assignment due
September 11	Smith, chapters 4, 7 & 10	
September 25	Mann, <i>Talented Women</i>	Qing thought piece due
October 2	Hanes and Sanello, <i>Opium Wars</i>	
October 9	Zarrow, Part I	
October 16		<i>Women & Opium</i> essays due
October 23	Zarrow, Part II	
October 30		
Nov 6	<i>The Sand Pebbles</i>	
November 13	Lao She, <i>Richshaw</i>	
November 20	Zarrow, Part III	<i>Rickshaw</i> essay due
December 4	Smith, chapter 11	Republican thought piece due
December 11	Final Experience	Final exam due

OUT-OF-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will have to write three (2) essays based the three books, *Talented women of the Zhang Family*, *The Opium Wars* or *Rickshaw*. An essay can be defined as a short written composition focusing on a single subject in which the author presents a viewpoint supported logic, factual data or both. An essay is also characterized by a clear and appropriate flow of ideas all related to and augmenting both the topic and the author's point of view. Finally, it is expected

that these out-of-class essays will conform to the standard technical rules governing the use of written English including those pertaining to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

For each separate essay, you must focus on one (1) of the questions that I provide pertaining to that particular book and do your best, using the book itself and any other material (especially the text book) you care to, to fully and completely answer the question or address the issue presented you. If you wander off the topic, select your own book, develop your own question or questions to answer -- you will most assuredly do poorly on the assignment!

Map Assignments

You are to do three (4) maps of different historical aspects of Modern Chinese history.

1. The first is to be a map of the Ming dynasty.
2. The second is a map of the Qing dynasty.
3. The third is to do one of the routes of the Chinese Communist Party during the Long March of 1934-35.
4. The fourth is to be a map of the occupation of China by Japan during World War II.

THOUGHT PIECES

There will be two (2) "thought piece" assignments related to and relating to the other two texts in this class. I will provide you with the problems to reflect upon and you will prepare these essays and hand them in at the appointed times.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale of this class is really very simple. There may or may not be options for students to earn "Class Participation Points" during our class sessions. Each separate writing assignment is worth 100 points. At the end of the semester I take the student who has earned the highest number of points to set the upper range of the grading scale. From there, I will calculate As, Bs, Cs, etc. according to the following ratio: 90% of the top score creates the range of As, 80% creates the range for Bs, 70% for Cs, and 60% for Ds. You should be able to track your progress in the class through the tools available to you at the Blackboard site.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Honesty and truthfulness are very important concepts to me and therefore I take dishonesty very seriously. Any student guilty of plagiarism on a written assignment will receive an automatic **F** on that assignment. Plagiarism shall be defined as the act of taking the ideas, thoughts, or words of another and passing them off as your own original ideas, thoughts or words. A good rule of thumb to follow to avoid any possible problem with plagiarism is that any time you copy or use **three consecutive words** from some other author, you had better use quotation marks and provide a full footnote citation to clearly designate that you are using someone else's ideas.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

I expect you to attend class regularly.