

History of Modern China

Instructor: Wei (Grace) Xu

Class Time: Mondays-Fridays, 1:30pm-4:30pm

Classroom: SSC-3010

Office: Lawson Hall 2234

Office Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-1:30

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Course Description:

This six-week course examines the historical transformations that have led to the development of modern China. Proceeding in a chronological fashion, in the first two weeks, we will first explore the collapse of Ming and the subsequent rise of the Qing dynasty in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. And then we will trace the decline and downfall of the Qing empire by exploring the internal and external forces that drove China toward a major revolution in the early twentieth century. In the next two weeks, we will focus on China's efforts to cope with the changing environment during the republican era: the rise of the regime of the Nationalist Party (GMD), its rivalry with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and China's involvement in the World War II. The emergence of the People's Republic of China, the Communist reign from the Mao years to the Hu Jintao era will be studied in the last two weeks. While the course focuses primarily on the themes of politics, economy and society, it will also look at such issues as gender, culture and art. Students are expected to read, and critically analyze assigned readings, and present their questions and opinions in the weekly class discussion.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, a student is expected to demonstrate:

- A deeper understanding of major issues and themes that shaped China's modern history.
- A sense of Chinese: an understanding of how Chinese people defined themselves in terms of social and cultural identity, their relations with the nation-state, as well as their relations with other nations.
- Research skills that enable them to identify and explore a historical question and to cultivate their own understandings and interpretations.
- Skills in sharing and presenting the results of their research in a coherent and convincing way that invites discussion and cooperation.

Books Required:

Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*, W. W. Norton & Company, Third Edition, 2012.

Cheng, Pei-kai, Michael Lestz, Jonathan Spence ed., *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, ed., W. W. Norton & Company, 1999.

Feng, Jicai, *The Three-Inch Golden Lotus: A Novel on Foot Binding (Fiction from Modern China)*, trans., David Wakefield. University of Hawaii Press, 1994.

Assignments and Grading:**1) Attendance and Weekly Discussion Participation: 25%**

Everyday there will be 3 hours of lecture. Attendance is mandatory for all students for every lecture and only proper excuses will be considered acceptable reasons for not attending.

Every Friday there will be a 1.5-2 hours class discussion around the assigned readings and topics (see the schedule below). It is extremely important to read the assigned reading beforehand, prepare questions and participate in the discussion.

2) Research proposal and bibliography: 5% (Due July 19)

Length: 1 page, double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman.

The bibliography should include at least 2 primary sources and 5 secondary sources.

3) Book Review: 15 % (Due July 31)

The book review should be based upon Feng, Jicai's *The Three-Inch Golden Lotus: A Novel on Foot Binding*, or a self-picked book at the instructor's consent.

Length: 5-7 pages, double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman.

4) Research Paper: 25% (Due August 14)

Length: 10-12 pages, double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman.

*Proposal, book review and research paper must be submitted in printed form and electronically to 'turnitin.com' (see WebCT). Late papers will be penalized 2% per day after due date.

5) Final Exam: 30% (TBA)

Topics and Schedule

- July 8 Introduction
- July 9 Fall of Ming and Qing Conquest
- July 10 Kangxi and Yongzheng
- July 11 The Reign of Qianlong and Chinese Society
- July 12 China and the Eighteenth- Century World

- July 15 Clash with the West
- July 16 Crisis Within
- July 17 Restoration through Reforms
- July 18 New Tensions in the Late Qing
- July 19 The End of the Dynasty

- July 22 The New Republic
- July 23 The Warlordism
- July 24 The New Era
- July 25 The Fractured Alliance
- July 26 The Guomindang in Power

- July 29 Communist Survival
- July 30 World War II in China (1)
- July 31 World War II in China (2)
- August 1 The Fall of the GMD State
- August 2 The Birth of the People's Republic

- August 5 Planning the New Society
- August 6 Deepening the Revolution
- August 7 Cultural Revolution
- August 8 Reopening the Doors
- August 9 Redefining Revolution

- August 12 Levels of Power
- August 13 Testing the Limits
- August 14 Century's End
- August 15 The New Century
- August 16 Review

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words

taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca