

Communist China from Mao to the Present



Instructor: Wei (Grace) Xu

Class Time: Tuesday, 6:00-8:00pm

Classroom: Kresge Building – K106

Office: Lawson Hall Room 2238

Office Hours: Tuesday: 5:30-6:00pm (In classroom) or by appointment

Email: wxu43@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This course will look at the history of Communist China, from the establishment of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the 1920s to the present. Proceeding in a chronological fashion, we will trace the vicissitude of three Communist regimes: the Jiangxi Soviet in the 1930s, the Yan'an border area in the 1940s and the People's Republic of China since 1949. Around the development of the Maoism, we will examine the CCP's rivalry with the Nationalist Party (GMD) before 1949, the socialist revolutions and projects during the Mao's era, and the emergence of so-called Chinese Capitalism in the post-Mao period. 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.

Course Objectives:

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

- A deeper understanding of major issues and themes that shaped the Chinese communism and communist China.
- 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.

Book Required:

Meisner, Maurice *Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic*, Third Edition, NY: Free Press, c1999.

ISBN-10: 0684856352 ISBN-13: 9780684856353

Assignments and Grading:

1) Attendance and Weekly Opinion Piece: 30%

Each Tuesday there will be 2 hours of lecture. Attendance is mandatory for all students for every lecture and only proper excuses will be considered acceptable reasons for not attending.

A discussion topic will be given each week in accordance with the lecture content. Students are required to write a **200-250 words** opinion piece on this topic and submit it online. The topic will be post on the course website every Monday (also at the end of the lecture). The submission will be due at the midnight of next Monday.

2) Research proposal and bibliography: 10% (Due October 7)

Length: 1 page, double-spaced, 12-font.

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

Submission: on-line

3) Research Paper: 30% (Due December 2)

Length: 8-10 pages, double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman, Chicago style

Submission: turnitin, hard copy

*Research paper must be submitted in printed form and electronically to 'turnitin.com' (see OWL). Late papers will be penalized **2%** per day after due date.

5) Final Exam:

30% (TBA)

Format: Term definition/Essay question

Topics and Schedule

September 9	Introduction: is “communism” a made road for China?
September 16	Establishment of the Chinese Communist Party
September 23	The Jiangxi Soviet
September 30	The Long March
October 7	The Yan’an Legacy
October 14	Birth of the People’s Republic of China
October 21	Planning the New Society
October 28	Deepening the Revolution
November 4	Cultural Revolution (1)
November 11	Cultural Revolution (2)
November 18	Reopening the Doors
November 25	Chinese Capitalism
December 2	The Fifth Modernization

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 Issues:

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. This site provides links the necessary forms. 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 should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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.

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