

Fall 2015

Class Time: Thursday 2:30-4:30 PM

Class Room: UCC 60

Office Hours: Thursday 4:30-5:00 PM  
(and by appointment)

Instructor: Dr. Jie (Selina) Gao

Office Location: TBA

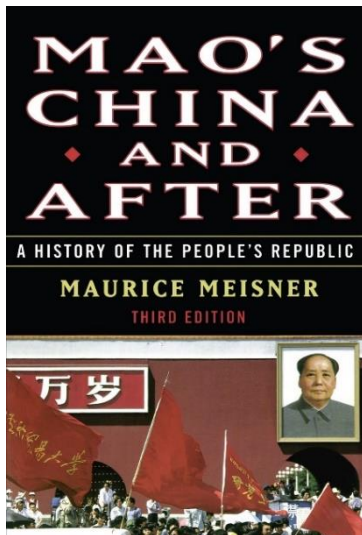
E-mail: TBA

*History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future.*

Robert Penn Warren

## Required Texts:

Maurice Meisner. *Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Free Press, 1999.



Supplementary materials will periodically be added online (OWL).

## Course Description

Where is China heading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Can the Communist Party survive? How far is China from democracy? Will China's economic boom bring benefits to people inside and outside the country? Is China a threat to Western countries and the current world order that should be contained or is China a partner that should be engaged? These questions interest and puzzle us at the same time. This course will help students answer these vital questions and will consider China's transformations and its international relationships in all their complexity.

In order to truly understand the ongoing political, social and economic trends today and to find out how China fits into the Global World, we have to trace their roots in the past and examine China's transition in the contemporary era. Through a combination of lectures, films, readings, discussions, presentations and writings, this course aims to provide students with a solid outline of the history of the People's Republic of China in order to understand why and how China took its unique path to modernization and has become what it is today.

The course should arm students with an arsenal of perspectives on the determinants of Chinese society: from history, ideology, the political structures, the personalities of individual leaders, and China's place in the international system of states. It should be theoretically rigorous enough for upper level studies on China or global studies. It should also be practical enough for those hoping only to gain solid information on modern China.

## Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

- ✓ Gain an understanding of the revolutionary experiences of China and how the past still influences Chinese society today
- ✓ Become more familiar with the geographic setting of China
- ✓ Recognize the huge influence which China exerts in an era of globalization
- ✓ Think critically and historically through understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of Chinese history
- ✓ Understand cause and effect relationships in historical development
- ✓ Express orally and in writing, with supporting materials, an understanding of multiple perspectives of a global issue
- ✓ Obtain information fluency by gathering, analyzing, and synthesizing information using emerging technologies and traditional media
- ✓ Address some of the commonalities and differences between China and Canada in regard to language, literature, aesthetics, politics, economics, as well as social and cultural practices
- ✓ Demonstrate an appreciation for the range and diversity of values, ideas, beliefs, and reasoning

Assessments: Student Attendance and Participation, Quizzes, Small Group and Class Discussions, Presentation, Source Analyses, and Exam



## Grading Distribution

Participation	20%
Quizzes	15%
Source Analyses	10%
Group Presentations	15%
Final Exam	<hr/> 40%
	100%

## Notes

- There will be three quizzes to help students keep abreast of the material covered in the textbooks and lectures.
- Students are responsible for a short presentation. I will have a sign-up sheet available for you and you are expected to pick a topic and a time slot for your presentation.
- Participating in class discussions and responding to other students' presentations are very important components of your mark as well.
- Finishing the assigned readings and writing down a few notes or a brief outline before class will help you keep on top of the material and make contributions in class.
- There will be two reading and writing assignments and students are expected to write 1-2 pages to answer study questions based on primary and secondary sources.
- The written exam will cover the entire course. It will consist of a combination of identifications and essay questions. It will be helpful for you to review your notes on each lecture and read through your texts.

## Class Schedule

Time	Topics	Readings & Assignments / Tests
Week 1/Sep. 10	Introduction	
Week 2/Sep.17	China and Its People	“Key Facts of China” “US, Canada, and China” “Think Again: China”
Week 3/Sep.24	The Collapse of the Old Order & the Republican Era	“Dynastic China” “Late Imperial China” Meisner. Ch.1-2
Week 4/Oct.1	The Republic, Warlords, and Communist Revolution	“China’s New Remembering of the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance, 1937-1945” “How China Became a Communist Country” Meisner. Ch.3-4
Week 5/Oct.8	New China & Its International Position	Meisner. Ch. 5 1 <sup>st</sup> Quiz
Week 6/Oct.15	Transition to Socialism	Meisner. Ch. 6-9
Week 7/Oct.22	Deepening the Revolution	“Mao Tse-tung and the Theory of the Permanent Revolution, 1958-69” “Conceptual Foundations of Mao Tse-Tung’s Theory of Continuous Revolution” Meisner. Ch. 10-13 1 <sup>st</sup> Source Analysis Due
Week 8/Oct.29	Fall Study Break—No Class	
Week 9/Nov.5	Cultural Revolution	Meisner. Ch. 17-20
Week 10/Nov.12	Redefining Revolution & China’s Reform	Meisner. Ch. 21-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quiz
Week 11/Nov.19	Sino-American Relations	“Foreign Relations of the United State: Diplomatic Papers, 1943. China” “Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung” “U.S. Public, Experts Differ on China Policies” “A New China Requires a New US Strategy”
Week 12/Nov.26	Sino-Russian Relations	“The Sino-Russian Boundary Settlement” “Russian and Soviet Shadows over China’s Future” 2 <sup>nd</sup> Source Analysis Due
Week 13/Dec.3	China towards the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	“The Future” “China’s Complicit Capitalists” 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quiz

## Course Expectations and Policies

- **General expectations**

I expect students to act in a professional and respectful manner in class at all times.

  - We will be discussing ideas that are controversial and may be challenging to what students value and think. It is important to focus on the discussion of ideas and not personal attacks on other people.
  - I expect students to have an opportunity to share their ideas, but not to monopolize the conversation.
  - All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, laptops etc.) should be turned off and put away during class time. Class time is a time to talk with fellow classmates and the instructor in order to build a learning community.
  
- **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend each class and all the other class activities. For each extra absence you will lose one percentage point off your final grade. If you miss more than half of the class periods, you will result in an automatic “F” in the course. In the event that you’re unable to attend class activities due to an illness or emergency situation, a documented explanation for your absence (such as a doctor’s note) will be required without exception. You may lose more than one percentage point off your final grade for your absence a time since you are not able to participate in discussions or presentations.
  
- **Participation**

It is important to understand, however, that the class is not just about showing up. During the discussions you will have a chance to explore the issues of the class. Active class participation can take many forms: an informed analysis, a succinct synopsis, a well-timed guess, a directed question, or even a statement of utter confusion—all could inform and clarify difficult issues. Remember, participation also includes respecting your peers and helping to foster an atmosphere conducive to the sharing of ideas. No student should hesitate to speak his or her mind in section, and all comments should be respected, even when challenged. Your post-secondary experience will be more rewarding the greater the exchange you have with your instructors and my goal is to encourage your critical thinking skills through a healthy intellectual exchange.
  
- **Late Assignments, missed presentations or exams**

Students are expected to submit their writing assignments before the deadline. Late work will be penalized one point off your final grade each day, with weekends (Saturday and Sunday) counting as one day only. Late assignments will not be accepted one week after the due date. A missed presentation will not be rescheduled; you will lose your presentation mark. If you miss an exam you might be given one more makeup test under exceptional circumstances.

## 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](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](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 to 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](mailto:MentalHealth@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, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or [msherif5@uwo.ca](mailto:msherif5@uwo.ca)