

## **HIS 2164B: Communist China from Mao to the Present**

**Instructor** James A. Flath  
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**Office Hour:** Lawson Hall 2234, Monday 11:00-12:00, Thursday 1:00-2:00  
**Class Time:** Thursday 2:30-4:30  
**Classroom:** UCC 60

### **Description**

This course explores the world's largest and oldest civilization, as it has been reinvented in the modern age. Beginning with the inauguration of a 'New China' in 1949, we will examine the nation's efforts to reconstruct itself after decades of war. We will study the great accomplishments and tragic failures of the Mao era, the economic and social reforms of the Reform Era, and finally the emergence of China as a superpower in the 21st Century.

### **Learning Outcome**

Can we ever really "know" something as big and complex as China? What constitutes knowledge? What constitutes learning? Is it possible, in a "post-truth" world, to see anything clearly through the haze of information? Beyond developing a mental archive of facts and data about China, students in this course will experiment with new and old methods of processing, discussing and representing information. The primary outcome of this course will be to learn about China, but to succeed in that objective we must also learn to manage the evidence.

### **Assessments:**

Quizzes, Small Group and Class Discussions, Final Exam

### **Required Texts**

John Gittings, *The Changing Face of China: From Mao to Market*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Primary Sources: to be posted on OWL

## Assignments and Grading

Discussion Group	20%
Weekly Quizzes	40% (best 8/11)
Final Exam	40%

## The Rules

Any student who is absent for more than 25% of the scheduled class time **may not be permitted to write the final exam.**

There are **no make-up quizzes.**

Academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate (available at [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or Academic Counseling Office).**

Week 1: (Jan 11)

Introduction to 'Old China'

The 'new' New China (Gittings, chapter 1)

Search for Socialism (Gittings, chapter 2)

Week 2: Liberation and the Great Leap

Mao Zedong VS the Party (Gittings, chapter 3)

Quiz 1 (chapter 2)

Week 3: Mao and the CCP

The Rebel Alternative (Gittings, chapter 4)

The Second Cultural Revolution (Gittings, chapter 5)

Quiz 2 (chapter 3)

Week 4: Reform

Economics in Command (Gittings, chapter 6)

Peasant China Transformed (Gittings, chapter 7)

Quiz 3 (chapter 4-5)

Week 5: Dissent

The Growth of Dissent (Gittings, chapter 8)

Quiz 4 (chapter 6-7)

Week 6: Reform

The Party Under Pressure (Gittings, chapter 9)

Quiz 5 (chapter 8)

Break: Feb 19-23

Week 7: Dissent

The Scholars Speak Out (Gittings, chapter 10)

Quiz 6 (chapter 9)

Week 8: Reform

The Door Opens Wide (Gittings, chapter 11)

Quiz 7 (chapter 10)

Week 9: Dissent

Tiananmen Square (Gittings, chapter 12)

Quiz 8 (chapter 11)

Week 10: Reform

Into the New Millennium (Gittings, chapter 13)

Quiz 9 (chapter 12)

Week 11: Transform

China and the World (Gittings, chapter 14)

Quiz 10 (chapter 13)

Week 12 (April 5): Coming Out

Quiz 11 (chapter 14)

## **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 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, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).