

HISTORY 2164
History of the People's Republic of China (1949 to 2022)
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Monday, 2:30-4:20
Course delivery: In Person

Instructor: James Flath

Office Hours: TBA
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2234
Email: jflath@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously. The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:

This course will examine the People's Republic of China beginning with the emergence of communist policies during the Second Sino-Japanese War of the 1930s-40s. It will analyze the development of Maoism, the emergence of a free-market economy in the Deng Xiaoping era, and more recent changes.

Course Syllabus:

For seventy years the People's Republic of China has launched one bold social experiment after another in a quest to create a "New China". In this course we study those experiments to understand what went right, what went wrong, and how policies continue to influence the country and its people long after they have formally concluded. During the Mao era, we will look at Land Reform, the Anti-Rightist Campaign, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. In the Deng era we will study the Reform and Opening Policy, the One Child Policy, and the Democracy Movement. In the post-Deng era we will explore "socialism with Chinese characteristics" and the ongoing effort to reinvent communism/capitalism. Throughout the course we will consider not only how things "are", but also how they are remembered and negotiated as part of the ongoing regime of social control.

Course Materials:

Jie Li, *Utopian Ruins*, Duke University Press, 2020 (for purchase).

Gail Hershatter, *Gender of Memory*, University of California Press, 2011 (eBook available at UWO Libraries).

Ding Ling, *Sun Shines over the Sangan River*, 1948 (on OWL).

Liu Binyan, *People or Monsters*, 1979 (on OWL)

Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang, *One Child Nation*, 2019 (film, online)

Carma Hinton, *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, 1995 (film, online)

“People’s Map of Global China” (online)

Kirk Denton, “Taiwan, China, and the National Imaginary”, in *The Landscape of Historical Memory*, University of Chicago Press, 2021 (on OWL).

Methods of Evaluation:

Participation: 25%. This course emphasises active learning, meaning that participation in classroom activities is a basic requirement and a student responsibility. Students must attend at least 8 classes in order to pass the course.

Group Project: 25%. Students will be assigned to a group, which will produce and perform a historical re-enactment based on one of the weekly themes. Students must make a discernable contribution to the project in order to receive a grade. The grade will be based in part upon peer evaluation.

Reading Responses: 25%. Students will be required, on a weekly basis, to submit short written responses to assigned readings. Students must submit all responses in order to pass the course. Responses must be submitted *before* the relevant class. Late submissions are strongly discouraged, although students will be permitted 2 exceptions. Responses will be graded as pass/fail.

Final Exam: 25%. Students must earn at least 50% on the exam in order to pass the course.

Accommodation for missed tests/midterms:

The professor will not organize a make-up time slot on the basis of student convenience. There are two make-up slots each term – students *must* write in one of those slots.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online make-up tests.

For in-person classes, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Important Dates](#).

IMPORTANT: In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via OWL. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Counselling. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 (Sept. 12): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 19): Empowering Women

Ding Ling, *Sun Shines over the Sangan River*

Hershatter, *Gender of Memory*, Chapter 3.

Group Work: “Speak Bitterness”

Week 3 (Sept. 26): Anti-Rightist Campaign

Jie Li, Chapter 1

Group Work: “Doing Thought Work”

Week 4 (Oct. 3): Great Leap Forward

Jie Li, Chapter 3

Hershatter, Chapter 9

Group Work: “Recipes for Disaster”

Week 5 (Oct. 17): Cultural Revolution

Jie Li, Chapter 4

Group Work: “Learn from a Peasant”

Week 6 (Oct. 24): Reform and Opening

Jie Li, Chapter 5

Liu Binyan, *People or Monsters?*

Group Work: “How (not) to be corrupt”

Week 7 (Nov. 7): One Child Policy

Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang, *One Child Nation*

Group Work: “Watch Party”

Week 8 (Nov. 14): Democracy Movement

Carma Hinton, “The Gate of Heavenly Peace” <http://tsquare.tv/film/>

Group Work: “How to Run a Protest”

Week 9 (Nov. 21): Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Tomas Kamusella, “How China combined authoritarianism with capitalism to create a new communism”.

<https://theconversation.com/how-china-combined-authoritarianism-with-capitalism-to-create-a-new-communism-167586>

“People’s Map of Global China”

Group Work: “How to Stop a Protest”

Week 10 (Nov. 28): Taiwan’s Independence Experiment

Kirk Denton, “Taiwan, China, and the National Imaginary”, in Denton, *The Landscape of Historical Memory*.

Group Work: “How (not) to be Chinese”

Week 11 (Dec. 5): Group Projects

Use of Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic devices is encouraged, except during tests and exams.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,
for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues

- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

DRAFT