

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Chinese Studies and Internship in Beijing
Course Title: Chinese History from 1800 to the Present
Course Code: CS255
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: Chinese Studies, History
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

With a history spanning almost 5,000 years, and a turbulent record of astonishing transformation and reform, China must be approached with a high degree of intellectual focus in order to make sense of the staggering amount of historical information. This course is designed to provide students an overview of Chinese history and culture that helps to better explain how China has arrived at its current state as one of the oldest, yet paradoxically one of the newest and most vital countries on earth. After first laying some basic historical groundwork concerning China's long dynastic era, the course concentrates on the roots of modern China in the turbulent Qing Dynasty, tracing in more detail the shock of contact with the West, the struggles for political dominance in the 20th century after the fall of the Qing, Mao's victory and the forging of a unified People's Republic, the excesses and disasters of the 1960s and 70s, and finally the reforms of the 1980s and their powerful trajectory, culminating in the economic powerhouse that is current-day China.

Objectives

The goals of the course are:

- To familiarize students with important historical trends and conflicts in Chinese history
- To acquaint students with the major historical players and intellectual movements that forged contemporary China
- To help students develop a perspective on the problems and paradoxes of China's modernization

Course Requirements

Essays: Four short essays are required throughout the semester on topics to be determined by the student, with teacher approval. These should involve reading outside the course pack material, and should represent the student's attempt to reach a more specific or deeper understanding of some aspect of the material covered.

Class Participation: Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion, and to show familiarity with the readings and critical analysis of their significance. Students should complete all reading assignments before coming to class. Approximately 50 pages of readings will be assigned for each class meeting.

Midterm: There is midterm comprised of multiple choice, identification and short essay questions.

CET Syllabus of Record

Final Essay: The final essay shall be at least 10 pages double-spaced, and on a topic to be approved by the teacher.

Field Trips: With a 3,000-year history, and having served as the capital of China for more than 800 years, the city of Beijing is rich in historical landmarks, architecture, and cultural centers. All field trips are conducted in and around Beijing, and are designed to give the students a more hands-on understanding of the events covered in the course. In addition to class field trips, students are also given assignments to go out on their own and explore and report on important sites in the city.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Essays 25%

Class Participation 20%

Midterm 25%

Final Essay 30%

Primary Texts

Fairbank, John King. (1987) *The Great Chinese Revolution: 1800-1985*. New York: Harper & Row.

Schoppa, R. Keith. (2006) *Revolution and its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson/ Prentice Hall.

Spence, Jonathan. (1990) *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Supplementary Texts

Eastman, Lloyd E. (1991) "The May Fourth Movement as a Historical Turning Point: Ecological Exhaustion, Militarization, and Other Causes of China's Modern Crisis," in Kenneth Lieberthal (ed.), *Perspectives on Modern China: Four Anniversaries*.

Ebrey, Patricia B. (1996) *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Fairbank, John K. (1978) *China: Tradition and Transformation*, Houghton Mifflin.

Fairbank, John K. (1987) *The Great Chinese Revolution: 1800-1985* New York: Harper & Row.

Fairbank, John K.; Goldman, Merle. (1998) *China: A New History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Fewsmith, Joseph. (2001) *China since Tiananmen: the politics of transition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ivanhoe, Philip J. and Bryan W. Van Norden (eds.). (2003) *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Co Inc; Reprint edition.

Lieberthal, Kenneth. (1995) *Governing China. from revolution through reform*. 1st ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Meisner, Maurice. (1999) *Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic*. 3rd Edition. New York: Simon & Schuster Trade.

Mote, F. W. (1980) *Imperial China, 900-1800*, Boston: Harvard University Press.

Schoenhals, Michael ed., (1996) *China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party*, London: Sharpe.

CET Syllabus of Record

- Schoppa, R. Keith. (2000) *The Columbia Guide to Modern Chinese History*. Columbia Guides to Asian History. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- Schoppa, R. Keith. (2006) *Revolution and its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson/ Prentice Hall.
- Schwarcz, Vera (1986). *The Chinese Enlightenment: Intellectuals and the Legacy of the May Fourth Movement of 1919*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Schwartz, Benjamin. (1969) *The Search for Wealth and Power*. New York: Harper.
- Shaughnessy, Edward L. (2005) *China: Empire and Civilization*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.
- Spence, Jonathan. (1990) *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Spence, Jonathan. (1990) *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*. New York: Penguin.
- Waley, Arthur. (1958) *The Opium War Through Chinese Eyes*. New York: Macmillan.
- Wasserstrom, Jeffrey (1991) *Student Protests in the 20th Century*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Zhao Dingxin. (2001) *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic per week. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately 2 topics per week.

Topic 1 – The Dynastic Period

Geographical and economic background to Chinese history
Features of the dynastic era
The Confucian Legacy
Overview of Chinese history to 1800

Topic 2 – The Early 1800s

The First Opium War
Treaty of Nanjing

Topic 3 – The Late Qing

The Second Opium War
The Taiping Rebellion
The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95
The 100 Days Reforms of 1898

Topic 4 – The End of the Dynastic Era and China in Revolution

The Boxer Rebellion
The Xinhai Revolution

Topic 5 – The Warlord Era

Sun Yat-sen
Yuan Shikai and the warlord era

CET Syllabus of Record

Japanese and foreign encroachment

Topic 6 – May Fourth

The May Fourth Movement

Founding of the Communist Party

Topic 7 – The KMT–CCP Split

The Nationalist Revolution: The KMT

The Nanjing Decade

Topic 8 – Anti-Japanese War and CCP Victory

Anti-Japanese War

Nanjing Massacre

The Long March

Topic 9 – Founding of the PRC, 1950s

The Founding of the People's Republic

China under Mao

Sino-Soviet cooperation and split

Topic 10 – PRC 1960s-70s

The Great Leap Forward

The Cultural Revolution

Topic 11 – China Under Deng Xiaoping

Reform and Opening up

Economic reforms, Special Economic Zones

Topic 12 – Tiananmen Square

1989: Tiananmen Square and its legacy

Current trajectory of modern China