

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** CET Chinese Studies and Internship in Shanghai

**Course Title:** Shanghai: Key to Modern China?

**Course Code:** SH250

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Suggested Cross Listings:** History, East Asian Studies

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Open to all program students

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## Description

The city of Shanghai has had multiple and changing reputations and representations. It has been simultaneously blamed as the source of all that was and is wrong in China and praised as the beacon of an advanced national future. Historically, the city has been China's cotton capital, leading colonial port, the location of its urban modernity, a national center of things from finance to fashion, and the home of radical politics. The objective of this course is to use the social, political, cultural, and economic history of Shanghai to analyze if and how the history of Shanghai provides a key to understanding the making of modern China.

After a critical examination of the concepts of tradition and modernity and approaches for studying Shanghai history, we will explore the late imperial, Republican, and People's Republic periods. The course will end with the Reform and Opening period of the 1980s and the subsequent return of Shanghai to preeminence. Themes will include modernity, commercialism, the role of city's colonial past in shaping its history, and whether Shanghai is somehow unique or representative of what we know as "modern China." As part of this course, we will take advantage of our location to visit significant historical sites and exhibits

## Objectives

During this course, students:

- Achieve a comprehensive understanding of Shanghai's history and an introduction to modern Chinese history
- Develop their analytical and communication skills through writing and critical interpretation of secondary and primary sources
- Master a historical tradition outside the western one
- Learn different approaches to the study of history and international relations

## Course Requirements

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Students must complete reading assignments for the designated day BEFORE attending class. Students are expected to bring assigned readings to class and be prepared to discuss them.

Your contributions to class discussions are an important aspect of your overall learning experience in the course. Class discussion is meant to:

- 1) Inspire active and critical reading of the assigned materials,
- 2) Enhance skills for analytical thinking and effective presentation of ideas before a group, and
- 3) Enable the learning of different perspectives from other students.

### Grading Criteria for Discussion Participation

- A Strong preparation, frequent and substantive contribution to class discussion.
- B Good preparation, frequent contribution to class discussion.
- C Good preparation, frequent contribution to class discussion but often unrelated to subject matter, not substantial, or does not further discussion.
- C- Some preparation, needs prompting from instructor for contribution.
- D Barely any preparation, communication minimal.
- F Attended class but did not participate; or absent from class

Students will write three short papers (between 2 and 8 pages) on assigned topics. These will either be critical book reviews based on the assigned readings, supplemented by knowledge from class lectures and discussions; or analytical essays on specific topics. Detailed instructions for each essay will be given in separate assignment handouts.

In these essays you will be required to identify scholarly theses, locate and evaluate historical evidence, analyze arguments, and demonstrate an understanding of historical context. Mastering the skill of presenting complicated material and ideas in a concise format is one goal of this class. The intention of these essays and other assignments is not to summarize the assigned readings but instead to offer critical historical analyses of the readings.

A final take-home essay examination of approximately 8 pages is due at the end of the course.

Attendance in classes is mandatory, including field study events. Missing classes will affect your participation grade. If you cannot attend a specific class because of a medical or legal emergency you must make all efforts to notify the professor beforehand.

Schedules, topics, and readings may be revised at times, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.

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Written assignments must be turned in on the dates specified. Late work will be penalized with a one-third grade deduction for each day of delay. That is, each day the grade will fall in a manner such as from A to A- to B+ to B to B-, etc.

All assignments in this course are to be completed independently. Collaborative work is neither required nor allowed.

## Methods of Evaluation

Three short papers:	20% each; totaling 60%
Participation in discussions:	10%
Take-home final exam, which is a longer paper:	30%
Total	100%

## Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All students are responsible for understanding the standard academic rules on plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty. Violating rules on academic dishonesty may result in failure of the class or expulsion from a study abroad program or university.

There is a good introduction on plagiarism at:  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

## Primary Texts

Ailing, Zhang. "Sealed Off 封锁" (1943).

Bergère, Marie-Claire. Shanghai: China's Gateway to Modernity.

Cheng, Nien. Life and Death in Shanghai, pp. 3-87.

Chen, Yuan-Tsung. The Dragon's Village: An Autobiographical Novel of Revolutionary China, pp. 1-110.

Gerth, Karl. "Shanghai Fashion: Merchants and Business as Agents of Urban Vision." From Cities in Motion, Chap. 6.

Hershatter, Gail. "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity: Prostitution in Early-Twentieth-Century Shanghai." From Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities, Chap. 7.

Johnson, Cooke. Shanghai: From Market Town to Treaty Port, pp. 1-154.

Li, Jie. "Demolition." From Shanghai Homes: Palimpsests of Private Life, pp. 191-215.

Lu, Hanchao. Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century.

Naiji, Xu. "Memorial on Legalizing Opium, June 10, 1836."

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Perry and Dillon. "Little Brothers' in the Cultural Revolution: The Worker Rebels of SH." From

Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities.

Perry, Elizabeth J. "Tobacco." From Shanghai on Strike: The Politics of Chinese Labor. Chap. 7.

Rottmann, Allison. "Crossing Enemy Lines: Shanghai and the Central China Base." From In the

Shadow of the Rising Sun, Chap. 4.

Strand, David. "A High Place is No Better than A Low Place': The City in the Making of Modern

China." From Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity, pp. 98-136.

Wakeman Jr, Frederic. "Licensing Leisure: the Chinese Nationalists' Attempt to Regulate

Shanghai, 1927-49." The Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Feb. 1995), pp. 19-42.

Wasserstrom, Jeffrey. "The May Fourth Movement." From Student Protests...the View from SH,

Chap. 2.

White III, Lynn T.. "What the Cultural Revolution Was, and Why It Happened."

From Policies of

Chaos.

Yeh, Catherine. "Playing with the Public: Late Qing Courtesans and Their Opera Singer Lovers."

From Gender in Motion, Chap. 6.

Yeh, Wen-hsin. "Urban Warfare and Underground Resistance." From Wartime Shanghai, Chap. 7.

Yeh, Wen-hsin. Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity, Intro., pp. 1-30.

Yeh, Wen-hsin, Shanghai Splendor

Zexu, Lin. "Commissioner Lin Zexu's Letter to Queen Victoria, 1839."

### Supplementary Films

"China Blue," (YouTube)

"China in Revolution" (Available Online)

"City of Life and Death" Directed by Lu Chuan (2009).

"Flowers of Shanghai" (海上花). Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien (1998).

"Gate of Heavenly Peace," (YouTube)

"I Wish I Knew." Directed by Jia Zhangke

"Lust, Caution" Directed by Ang Lee (2007).

"Nanking" (南京);

"Reds" (1981).

"Shanghai Story 美丽上海," Directed by Peng Xiaolian. (2004).

"Shanghai Triads" Directed by Zhang Yimou (2005).

"Suzhou Creek 苏州河" Directed by Lou Ye (2000) film

"The Sand Pebbles" (1966).

# **CET Syllabus of Record**

## **Outline of Course Content**

Topic 1 - Introduction to the course and late imperial China Themes in Chinese History, Politics, and Culture

Topic 2 - Approaches to the study of Shanghai; tradition vs. modernity

Topic 3 - External Pressures: Tea and Opium

Topic 4 - Internal Pressures: The Taiping Rebellion

Topic 5- Fall of the Qing

Topic 6 - The Rise of the Republic

Topic 7 - The New Culture and May Fourth Movements

Topic 8- The Nanjing Decade (1927-37); Founding of the CCP

Topic 9 - The Nanjing Decade (1927-37)

Topic 10 - Occupied Shanghai and World War Two (1937-1945)

Topic 11 - Civil War (1945-49)

Topic 12 - The 1950s: Now the Revolution

Topic 13 - The Cultural Revolution

Topic 14 - Reform and Opening