History 341: History of Modern China, 1800-1949

This course, in part, is a survey of the major social, intellectual and political developments in China in the century and a half prior to the Chinese Communist victory of 1949. In part, it is an inquiry into the historical origins and the social nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution. Part I of the course examines the decay of the traditional Chinese imperial order and the nature of the Taiping Rebellion. Part II is concerned with the impact of 19th century Western imperialism on traditional Chinese society and the emergence of modern revolutionary movements, culminating in the Revolution of 1911. Parts III and IV focus on the history of Marxism and Communism in China from the May Fourth era to the founding of The People's Republic in 1949. No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination based on the lectures and required readings listed below. Exam questions will be distributed on December 15 and your essays are due on or before December 20.

2. Three short essays (about 5 pages each) based on the books listed under "Readings" in Parts I, III and IV, as indicated below. The three essays, the form and nature of which will be discussed in class, are due on October 6, November 22 and December 15.

Grading: 50% for the final exam; 50% for the three essays.
History 341 (Fall, 1988): Lectures and Readings

Part I: The Decay of the Old Order, 1800-1865

Sept. 6: Introduction to Modern Chinese History
Sept. 9: Feudalism and Capitalism in Chinese History
Sept. 13: State and Society in Traditional China: The Gentry as a Ruling Class
Sept. 15: Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology
Sept. 20: Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars
Sept. 22: Traditional Peasant Rebellions and the Taiping Rebellion
Sept. 27: The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity

Readings:

1. Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 1-8 (pp. 1-162)
2. Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion
   Essay #1 on Michael, Taiping Rebellion due Oct. 2

Part II: Reaction and Revolution, 1865-1911

Sept. 29: The Failure of Conservative Modernization
Oct. 4: The Defection of the Intellectuals and the Hundred Days Reform
Oct. 6: Nationalism versus Anti-Foreignism: The Case of The Boxer Rebellion
   (Essay #1 Due)
Oct. 11: Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Kuomintang
Oct. 13: Socialism and Anarchism in the Early Revolutionary Movement
Oct. 18: Imperialism and Capitalism in Modern China
Oct. 20: The Revolution of 1911

Readings:

1. Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 9-11 (pp. 163-256)
   (on library reserve)
Part III: The Origins of Marxism and Communism in China, 1915-1927

Oct. 25: The New Culture Movement (1915-1919)

Oct. 27: The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intellectuals

Nov. 1: Nationalism and Iconoclasm in the May Fourth Era

Nov. 3: The Introduction of Marxism

Nov. 8: The Birth and Early Years of the Chinese Communist Party

Nov. 10: The Soviet Union and the Kuomintang-Communist Alliance

Nov. 15: The Kuomintang and The National Revolution

Nov. 17: Nationalism and Social Revolution, 1925-27

Readings:


2. Either Harold Isaacs, *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution*
   or Maurice Meisner, *Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism*
   or Andre Malraux, *Man's Face*

   Essay #2 due November 22

Part IV: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1927-1949

Nov. 22: The Significance of 1927

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov. 29: The Emergence of Maoism

Dec. 1: The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March

Dec. 6: Yenan Communism (1935-45)

Dec. 8: On the Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution; the theory of "peasant nationalism"


Dec. 15: A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

Readings:

1. Bianco, *Origins of the Chinese Revolution*, Chs. 4-7 and Conclusion (pp. 82-208)

2. Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China* or William Hinton, *Fanshen*

   Essay #3 due December 15
Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class
   Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China's Gentry
   E. Wakeman, Fall of Imperial China, ch. 2
   Chang Chung-li, The Chinese Gentry

2. The Taiping Revolution
   Franz Michael, The Taiping Rebellion
   Vincent Shih, The Taiping Ideology
   Philip Kuhn, Rebellion and Its Enemies in Late Imperial China

3. Traditional Society and the Failure of Modernization
   Mary C. Wright, The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism
   Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, ch. 4

4. The Decay of Confucianism
   Joseph Levenson, Confucian China and Its Modern Fate
   Benjamin Schwartz, In Search of Wealth and Power: Yen Fu and the West
   Joseph Levenson, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao and the Mind of Modern China

5. The Early Revolutionary Movement
   Edward Friedman, Backward Toward Revolution
   Mary Rankin, Early Chinese Revolutionaries
   Michael Gasster, Chinese Intellectuals and the Revolution of 1911
   Harold Schiffrin, Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Chinese Revolution

6. The May Fourth Movement
   Chow Tse-tsung, The May Fourth Movement
   Jerome Grieder, Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance

7. The Origins of Marxism and Communism in China
   Lee Feigon, Chen Duxiu: Founder of the Chinese Communist Party
   Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-ch'ao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism
   Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao

8. The Urban Working Class
   Jean Chesnauex, The Chinese Labor Movement, 1919-27
   Lynda Shaffer, Mao and the Workers

9. The Revolution of the 1920s as Reflected in Western Literature
   Andre Malraux, Man's Fate
   Andre Malraux, The Conquerers
   Richard McKenna, The Sand Pebbles
10. The Kuomintang in Power

Lyoyd Eastman, The Abortive Revolution
Sterling Seagrave, The Soong Dynasty
James Sheridan, China in Disintegration

11. Marxism in China: Theories of History and Literature

Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History: Origins of Marxist Historiography in China
Paul Pickowicz, Ch'u Chiu-pai and the Origins of Chinese Marxist Literary Criticism

12. Chinese Women in an Era of Revolutionary Change

Marilyn Young (ed.), Women in China
Helen F. Snow, Women in Modern China
Elisabeth Croll (ed.), The Women's Movement in China
Agnes Smedley, Portraits of Chinese Women in Revolution

13. Mao Tse-tung

Mao's autobiography in Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China
Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung
Jerome Chen, Mao and the Chinese Revolution

14. Maoism as a Variant of Marxism-Leninism

Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao
Stuart Schram, Mao Tse-tung
Maurice Meisner, Marxism, Maoism and Utopianism
Raymond Wylie, The Emergence of Maoism

15. Social and Economic Origins of Rural Revolution

R.H. Tawney, Land and Labour in China
Fei Hsiao-tung, Peasant Life in China
Robert Marks, Rural Revolution in South China: Peasants and the Making of History in Haifeng County, 1570-1930

16. The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution: Nationalism and Social Revolution

Chalmers Johnson, Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power
Mark Selden, The Yenan Way in Revolutionary China

17. The Kuomintang-Communist Struggle; the Last Phase

Suzanne Pepper, Civil War in China: The Political Struggle, 1945-49
Jack Belden, China Shakes the World

18. Other Aspects of the History of Chinese Communism

Angus McDonald, Urban Origins of Rural Revolution
Dick Wilson, The Long March
Agnes Smedley, The Great Road: The Life and Times of Chu Teh
William Hinton, Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village
Periodization of the History of China

Ancient China

Hsia (?) 2200-1750 BC
Shang 1750-1100
Chou 1100-221 BC
   Western Chou, 1100-770
   Eastern Chou, 770-221
      (Spring and Autumn period, 722-481)
      (Warring States period, 403-221)

Imperial (traditional) China

Ch'in 221-207 BC
Former Han 206 BC-8 AD
Later Han 25-220
Period of Disunity 221-589
   (Three Kingdoms 221-264)
Sui 589-617
T'ang 618-906
Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms 907-959
Northern Sung 960-1126
Southern Sung 1127-1275
Yuan (Mongol) 1276-1367
Ming 1368-1644
Ch'ing (Manchu) 1645-1911

Republican China, 1912-1949
   Kuomintang era, 1928-49

People's Republic of China, 1949 --
   Maoist era, 1949-76
   Post-Mao period, 1976 --

Conventional Chinese Marxist Characterizations:

Shang and early Chou -- slave society
Late Chou -- transition from slavery to feudalism
221 B.C. - 1842 AD -- feudalism (or "feudal-bureaucratic")
1842 - 1949 -- semi-colonial and semi-feudal (i.e., partly capitalist)
1949 - 1955 -- "new democratic"
1956 -- -- socialist