The course is a survey of the major social, political and intellectual developments in China from the time of the Opium War until the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Its main (but not sole) aim is to understand the historical conditions that yielded the Chinese Communist Revolution and to understand the nature of that revolution. The course is divided into three parts. Part I examines the decay of the old Chinese imperial order in the 19th century and the impact of Western imperialism on traditional Chinese society. Part II, dealing with the period 1895-1927, is concerned with the emergence of modern revolutionary movements, especially the Guomindang (Kuomintang) of Sun Yat-sen and the Chinese Communist Party, which culminate in the great revolutionary upsurge of 1925-27. Part III examines Republican China in the Chiang Kai-shek era and especially the origins and history of the Maoist phase of the Chinese Communist revolution, 1927-49. You are required to read five books over the course of the semester. Two books will serve as texts to be read in conjunction with the lectures and discussions. These are:

Frederic Wakeman, *The Fall of Imperial China* (Free Press)
Lucien Bianco, *The Origins of the Chinese Revolution* (Stanford)

Assignments in the Wakeman and Bianco books are listed below. Both volumes are available for purchase in local bookstores, as are copies of the books by Mary Wright, Andre Malraux, and Emily Honig (see below).

You are required to read one additional book (more if you wish) for each of the three parts of the course. At the conclusion of Parts I, II, and III, you will be asked to write a short essay (about 5 double-spaced typewritten pages) based upon your reading of the following works: Part I, Mary C. Wright, *The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism*; Part II, Andre Malraux, *Man's Fate*; Part III, Emily Honig, *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-1949*. The three essays, the form and nature of which will be discussed in class, are due (respectively) on October 14, November 18, and December 9.

There will be a final take-home examination based on lectures and required readings. Exam questions will be distributed on December 14 and your exam is due on or before December 21.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed.

**Grading:**
The three short essays -- 50%
The final exam -- 50%

**LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Part I: The Decay of the old Regime, 1800-1895 (Sept. 2 -- Oct. 5)**

Feudalism and Capitalism in Chinese History

State and Society in Traditional China: The Gentry as a Ruling Class
Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology

Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars

Traditional Peasant Rebellions and the Taiping Rebellion

The Revolutionary Character of Taiping Christianity

"Self-Strengthening": The Failure of Conservative Modernization

The Sino-Japanese War, 1894-95

Imperialism in Modern Chinese History

The Origins and Nature of Modern Chinese Capitalism

Required Readings for Part I

A) Frederic Wakeman, The Fall of Imperial China, chapters 1-10.

B) Mary C. Wright, The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism

Essay #1 due Oct. 14

Part II: The Rise of the Modern Revolutionary Movement, 1895-1927 (Oct. 7 - Nov. 9)

The Defection of the Intellectuals

The Hundred Days Reform

The Transition from Culturalism to Nationalism: Yen Fu and Liang Qichao

Nationalism versus Anti-Foreignism: The Case of the Boxer Rebellion

Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Guomindang

The Revolution of 1911 and the Failure of Bourgeois Democracy

Socialism and Anarchism in the Early Revolutionary Movement, 1900-1919

The Modern Chinese Intelligentsia and the New Culture Movement, 1915-1919

The Modern Women’s Liberation Movement

The May Fourth Movement and the Politicization of the Intelligentsia

The Tension between Nationalism and Cultural Iconoclasm

The Introduction of Marxism

The Chinese Labor Movement

The Birth and Early Years of the Chinese Communist Party

The Soviet Union and the Guomindang-Communist Alliance

Nationalism and Social Revolution, 1925-1927
Required Readings for Part II

A) Wakeman, chapter 11
B) Andre Malraux, Man’s Fate

Essay #2 due Nov. 18


The Significance of 1927
Maoism as a Variant of Marxism
The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March
Guomindang China, 1927-37
Bureaucratic Capitalism in Traditional & Modern China
Yenan Communism, 1935-45
On Interpreting the Chinese Communist Revolution: the theory of "peasant nationalism"
The Civil War, 1945-49
Capitalist and Socialist Features of the Chinese Revolution

Required Readings for Part III

A) Bianco, Origins of the Chinese Revolution, chs. 4-7 and Conclusion
B) Emily Honig, Sisters and Strangers: Women in teh Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-49

Essay #3 due Dec. 9

Final Exam: Questions to be distributed on December 14. Essays due on or before December 21.
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Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class

Fei Hsiao-t'ung, *China's Gentry*  
F. Wakeman, *Fall of Imperial China*, ch. 2  
Chang Chung-li, *The Chinese Gentry*  
Max Weber, *The Religion of China*

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 and the Rise of Nationalism

Joseph Levenson, *Confucian China and Its Modern Fate* (3 vols)  
Benjamin Schwartz, *In Search of Wealth and Power: Yen Fu and the West*  
Joseph Levenson, *Lian 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 Castles, *Chinese Intellectuals and the Revolution of 1911*  
Harold Schifferin, *Sun Yat-sen and the Origins of the Chinese Revolution*  
Arif Dirlik, *Anarchism in the Chinese Revolution*

6. The May Fourth Movement

Chow Tse-tsung, *The May Fourth Movement*  
Jerome Grieder, *Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance*  
Vera Scharcz, *The Chinese Enlightenment*

7. The Origins of Marxism and Communism in China

Lee Feigon, *Chen Duxiu: Founder of the Chinese Communist Party*  
Maurice Meisner, *Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism*  
Benjamin Schwartz, *Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao*  
Arif Dirlik, *The Origins of Chinese Communism*

8. The Urban Working Class

Jean Chesneaux, *The Chinese Labor Movement, 1919-27*  
Lynda Shaffer, *Mao and the Workers*

9. The Revolution of the 1920s as Reflected in Western Literature

Harold Isaacs, *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution*  
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*
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 960-1125
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 BC - 1842 AD -- feudalism (or "feudal-bureaucratic")
1842 - 1949 -- semi-colonial and semi-feudal (i.e., partly capitalist)
1949 - 1955 -- "new democratic"
1956 -- -- socialist