The course is a survey of the major social, political and intellectual developments in China from the time of the 19th Century Opium War until the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. Its main (but not sole) aim is to understand the historical conditions that resulted in 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.

You are required to read one additional book 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 books listed on the following pages. The three essays, the form and nature of which will be discussed in class, are due (respectively) on October 17, November 21, and December 12.

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 -- 40%
The final exam -- 40%
Work in discussion sections -- 20%

**LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Part I: The Decay of the old Regime, 1800-1895** (Sept. 7 -- Oct. 12)

- 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*


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

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. 21


The Significance of 1927

Maoism as a Variant of Marxism
The Kiangsi Soviet and the Long March
Guomindang China, 1927-37
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 the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-49

Essay #3 due Dec. 12

Final Exam: Questions will be distributed on December 14. Essays are due on or before December 21.

Suggested Supplementary Readings

1. The Nature of the Gentry Class
   Fei Hsiao-t'ung, China's Gentry
   F. Waksman, 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 Gasster, Chinese Intellectuals and the Revolution of 1911
   Harold Schiffrin, 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 Schärcz, 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 Te-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, *Hans' 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*
Pual Pickowicz, *Ch'iu Chiu-p'ai 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 BC - 1842 AD -- feudalism (or "feudal-bureaucratic")
- 1842 - 1949 -- semi-colonial and semi-feudal (i.e., partly capitalist)
- 1949 - 1955 -- "new democratic"
- 1956 -- -- "socialist"