In the 1930s and 1940s, Mao Tse-tung and other Chinese Communists organized tens of millions of Chinese peasants into what was certainly the most massive, and perhaps the greatest, revolution in world history. The Chinese revolution took the historically unique form of harnessing the forces of peasant revolt in the rural areas to surround and overwhelm the cities. The political result was the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This course is an inquiry into the post-revolutionary history of Chinese Communism, from the formal establishment of the Communist state in 1949 to the current post-Maoist era of the "Four Modernizations". The inquiry will focus on the successes and failures of Chinese Communists in power, particularly with respect to their proclaimed aim of building a socialist society in the world's most populous land. In a broader sense, the course is concerned with the nature and social results of 20th-century socialist revolutions in general, addressing the question of whether it is possible to carry out a genuine socialist reorganization of state and society under conditions of economic scarcity. The question is relevant to the history of the Soviet Union and to a variety of contemporary Third World societies and revolutionary movements. The examination of the Chinese Communist historical experience hopefully will prove helpful for understanding the dilemmas which confront other revolutionary movements and societies which today proceed under Marxist and socialist banners.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed. The first four weeks of the semester will be devoted to a survey of the history of Marxism and Communism in China from the time of the May Fourth Movement in 1919 to the victory of the Maoist revolution in 1949. This will serve as a review for those who have some familiarity with modern Chinese history, and, for those who do not, as an introduction to the history of the People's Republic.

The course is divided into five parts. Part I, as noted above, will be a brief survey of the Chinese Communist Revolution (1919-1949). Part II will be concerned with the consolidation of Communist state power (1949-52) and the period of the First Five Year Plan (1953-57), focusing on the social and political consequences of Soviet-style industrialization. Part III will examine one of the great utopian episodes in world history, the Great Leap Forward campaign of 1958-60 and its aftermath. Part IV will reassess the Cultural Revolution and the end of the Maoist era (1966-1976). Part V will consider the deradicalization of the Chinese revolution in the years since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976. In pursuing inquiries into these various eras, comparisons between Chinese history and the histories of other post-revolutionary societies (especially the Soviet Union) will be suggested in both lectures and readings.
Lectures usually will be confined to about 45 minutes, followed by a half-hour of general discussion.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A final examination based on the lectures and readings listed below.

2. A paper (about ten typewritten pages) selected from one of the topics suggested on pages 6-8 below. Other topics may be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Grading: Final exam: 60%
Paper: 40%

Paperback editions of the following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and elsewhere:


William Rosenberg and Marilyn Young, Transforming Russia and China (Oxford University Press)


David and Nancy Milton, The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China, 1964-69 (Pantheon)

Roger Garside, Coming Alive: China After Mao (Mentor)
Lectures and Readings:

**Part I: The Chinese Communist Revolution, 1919-1949**

January 22: Problems in the Study of Contemporary Chinese History

January 24: The Making of a Revolutionary Situation: China, 1839-1919


January 31: The Revolution of 1925-27

February 5: The Origins of Maoism

February 7: Yenan Communism (1935-45)

February 12: The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution: the theory of "peasant nationalism"

February 14: A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

**Readings:**


- William Rosenberg and Marilyn Young, *Transforming Russia and China* (Oxford paperback), chs. 1-6


**NOTE:** Schram's *Mao Tse-tung* is out of print. If you can find a used copy (or use library reserve), it is to be preferred over the Bianco book.

**Part II: The Establishment of Communist Political Power and the Era of the First Five Year Plan, 1949-1957**

February 19: Revolutionaries Turned Rulers: The New State and its Ideology

February 21: Repression, Terror and the Korean War

February 26: Urban China: The Era of National Capitalism
Part II, continued

February 28: Rural China: The Land Reform Campaign
March 5: The First Five Year Plan and its Social Consequences
March 7: Agricultural Collectivization
March 12: The Hundred Flowers Campaign

Readings:
Meisner, Mao's China, chs. 5-11.
Rosenberg and Young, Transforming Russia and China, ch. 7.

Part III. The Great Leap Forward Campaign and Its Aftermath, 1953-65

March 14: The Maoist Strategy of Development and the Theory of Permanent Revolution
March 26: The Great Leap (1958-60)
March 28: Economic and Political Consequences of the Great Leap
April 2: The Liuist Regime (1961-65)

Readings:
Meisner, Mao's China, chs. 12-17.
Rosenberg and Young, Transforming Russia and China, ch. 8.

Part IV: The Cultural Revolution and the Close of the Maoist Era, 1966-76

April 4: The Concept of "Cultural Revolution".
April 9: Class Struggles and Political Struggles, 1966-69
April 11: Results and Consequences of the Cultural Revolution
April 16: The Rise and Fall of the "Gang of Four", 1970-76.
April 18: Successes and Failures of the Maoist Era
Part IV, continued

Readings:


Part V: Post-Maoist China, 1976-84

April 23: The Ascendancy of Teng Hsiao-p'ing (Deng Xiaoping)
April 25: Politics and Policies in the Teng Era
April 30: Economic Reforms and Social Results
May 2: Chinese Marxism in the Post-Mao Era
May 7: Socialism and Modernization
May 9: China and the Fate of Socialist Revolutions

Readings:


Papers due on or before May 7

Final Exam: to be announced
Suggested Paper Topics and Readings

Essays should be reasonably concise (about 10-12 typewritten pages), well-argued, and based on the critical reading of two of the listed books. Most of the books should be available on reserve in Helen White Library.

1. The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution; a nationalist or a social revolution?
   - Chalmers Johnson, *Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power*
   - Mark Selden, *The Yenan Way in Revolutionary China*

2. The Character of the Kuomintang Regime -- and why it collapsed.
   - Lloyd Eastman, *The Abortive Revolution*

3. Maoism as a Variant of Marxism-Leninism
   - Benjamin Schwartz, *Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao*
   - Stuart Schram, *The Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung*
   - Maurice Meisner, *Marxism, Maoism and Utopianism*

4. China and the Korean War
   - Bruce Cummings, *The Origins of the Korean War*
   - Allen Whiting, *China Crosses the Yalu: The Decision to Enter the Korean War*

5. The Nature of the Chinese Communist State
   - Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolution*
   - V. Nee and D. Mozingo (eds.), *State and Society in Contemporary China*

6. Industrialization during the Maoist Era
   - Stephen Andors, *China's Industrial Revolution*
   - Barry Richman, *Industrial Society in Communist China*
   - Thomas Rawski, *China's Transition to Industrialism*

7. Industry in the Countryside
   - Dwight Perkins (ed.), *Rural Small-Scale Industry in the People's Republic of China*
   - Jon Sigurdson, *Rural Industrialization in China*

8. Women in China: Chinese Communism and Sexual Inequality
   - Delia Davin, *Woman-Work: Women and the Party in Revolutionary China*
   - Elisabeth Croll, *Feminism and Socialism in China*
   - Marilyn Young (ed.), *Women in China*
   - Kay Ann Johnson, Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*
9. The Land Reform campaigns
   - William Hinton, *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*
   - C.K. Yang, *A Chinese Village in Early Communist Transition*
   - or John Wong, *Land Reform in China: Institutional Transformation of Agriculture*

10. Agricultural Collectivization
    - Vivienne Shue, *Peasant China in Transition*

11. Intellectuals in Communist China
    - Jerome Grieder, *Intellectuals and the State in Modern China*
    - Merle Goldman, *China's Intellectuals: Advise and Dissent*
    - or James McCough (ed.), *Fei Hsiao-tung: The Dilemma of a Chinese Intellectual*

12. The Hundred Flowers Campaign
    - Roderick MacFarquhar (ed.), *The Hundred Flowers Campaign and the Chinese Intellectuals*

13. The Chinese Communist Bureaucracy
    - Harry Harding, *Organizing China: The Problem of Bureaucracy*
    - Richard Kraus, *Class Conflict in Chinese Socialism*

14. The Chinese Army (PLA)
    - John Gittings, *The Role of the Chinese Army*
    - Ellis Joffe, *Party and Army: Professionalism and Political Control in the Chinese Officer Corps*
    - or Livio Maitan, *Party, Army and Masses in China*

15. The Cultural Revolution: Leaders and Masses
    - Hong Yung Lee, *The Politics of the Chinese Cultural Revolution*
    - Byung-joon Ahn, *Chinese Politics and the Cultural Revolution*
    - Neale Hunter, *Shanghai Journal*

16. Results of the Cultural Revolution
    - Charles Bettelheim, *Cultural Revolution and Industrial Organization in China*
    - Bill Brugger (ed.), *China: The Impact of the Cultural Revolution*
17. The Red Guards: Social Composition and Political Aims

Klaus Mehnert, Peking and the New Left: At Home and Abroad
Hong Yung Lee, The Politics of the Chinese Cultural Revolution
Stanley Rosen, Red Guard Factionalism and the Cultural Revolution in Guangzhou (Canton)

18. The Sino-Soviet Dispute

Klaus Mehnert, Peking and Moscow
Donald Zagoria, The Sino-Soviet Conflict, 1956-61

19. "Sent-Down" Youth

Thomas P. Bernstein, Up to the Mountains and Down to the Villages: The Transfer of Youth from Urban to Rural China
Stanley Rosen, The Role of Sent-Down Youth in the Chinese Cultural Revl.

20. Education in the Maoist and Post-Maoist Eras

Suzanne Pepper, "Chinese Education After Mao: Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back and Begin Again?" China Quarterly (pp. 1-65.

21. The Democracy Movement of 1978-81

Chen Erjin, China: Crossroads Socialism