In the 1930s and 1940s, the Chinese Communist Party organized tens of millions of peasants into what was certainly the most massive social 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 market reform. 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.

No prior knowledge of Chinese history is presupposed. The first three 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 a brief historical introduction to the origins of the People's Republic.

The course is divided into four 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 also reassess the Cultural Revolution and the closing years of the Maoist era (1966-1976). Part IV will consider the deradicalization of the Chinese revolution in the years since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 and the social implications of the market reforms carried out by the Deng Xiaoping regime.

The main texts for the course are Carl Riskin, China's Political Economy (Oxford, 1987) and Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (The Free Press, 1986). These books are available for purchase in paperback editions. You should also purchase Anita Chan, Richard Madsen and Jonathan Unger, Chen Village (California, 1984, paperback).

Course Requirements:

1. A final take-home examination based on the lectures and readings listed below. You will be asked to write two essays, selected from six questions or topics. The exam questions will be distributed on May 6 and your essays will be due on May 11.

2. A paper (about 15 typewritten pages) selected from one of the topics suggested on the appended pages. Other topics may be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Papers are due on Thursday April 29.
Grading:

Final take-home exam: 60%
Paper: 40%

Lectures and Required Readings:


Problems in the Study of Contemporary Chinese History
The Making of a Revolutionary Situation, China 1839-1919
Marxism and Communism in China, 1920-1949
Maoism

The Theory of "Peasant Nationalism": its implications for understanding post-1949 Chinese history
Capitalist and Socialist Aspects of the Chinese Communist Revolution

Readings:

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After (The Free Press, 1986), chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-51).
Carl Riskin, China's Political Economy (Oxford, 1987), chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-37).

Part II: The Maoist Regime, 1949-1957 (Feb. 9-Feb. 25)

State and Class in the People's Republic of China
Repression, Terror and the Korean War
The Bourgeois Revolution: Land Reform and National Capitalism
The First Five Year Plan: Economic Results and Social Consequences
Agricultural Collectivization: Social Results and Political Implications
Socialism and Democracy: The Hundred Flowers Campaign and the Anti-Rightist Witchhunt (1956-58)

Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China and After, chs. 5-11 (pp. 55-203).
Riskin, China's Political Economy, chs. 3-5 (pp. 38-113).
Part III: Late Maoism: The Great Leap and the Cultural Revolution (1958-76) (March 2-April 1)

Maoist Utopianism and the Theory of Permanent Revolution

The Great Leap Forward Campaign, 1958-60

Economic and Political Consequences of the Great Leap

The Concept of "Cultural Revolution"

Class Struggles and Political Conflict, 1966-69

Results and Consequences of the Cultural Revolution

Maoism and Stalinism

Successes and Failures of the Maoist Era

Readings:

Meisner, Mao's China and After, chs. 12-21 (pp. 204-432)

Risikin, China's Political Economy, chs. 6-10 (pp. 114-256)

Anita Chan et al. Chen Village, chs. 1-9

Part IV: Post-Mao China (April 6-May 6)

The Third Plenum and the Ascendancy of Deng Xiaoping

The Promise and the Fate of Socialist Democracy: the case of the Democracy Movement of 1978-81

The Ideology of Reform and the Mystique of the Market

The Decollectivization of Agriculture

The Capitalist Restructuring of Industry and the Urban Working Class

Social and Political Conservatism

Chinese Marxism in the Post-Maoist Era

Bureaucratic Capitalism and Market Stalinism


The Future of Chinese Socialism
Readings:

Meisner. Mao's China and After. chs. 22-23 (pp. 435-489)

Riskin. China's Political Economy. chs. 11-15 (pp. 257-379)

Anita Chan et al. Chen Village, pp. 265-84

Suggested Paper Topics and Readings

Papers should be about 15 pages in length and based on the reading of at least two of the books listed below (or other books comparable in quality). The books should be used as sources for a specific topic or question you should formulate on your own and to support whatever argument or thesis you wish to pursue with respect to that topic or question. In most cases, it would be well to supplement the two books with other sources (e.g., periodical articles or newspaper reports). Paper topics should be decided on by the end of the 6th week in consultation with the instructor. I will attempt to help you formulate a viable paper topic, if necessary, and suggest appropriate sources. What are listed below are only a few samples of possible areas of inquiry for your papers. There are many other possibilities which you might want to pursue.

1. The Nature of the Chinese Communist Revolution: a nationalist or a social revolution? The significance of the answer to that question for understanding post-1949 Chinese history. What is "the Yenan legacy" and what is its post-1949 relevance?

   Chalmers Johnson. Peasant Nationalism and Communist Power (Stanford, 1962)

   Mark Selden. The Yenan Way in Revolutionary China (Harvard, 1971)

2. Maoism as a Variant of Marxism-Leninism. What is the relationship of Maoism to the Marxian intellectual and theoretical tradition? What are its implications for political and social practice? What are the Western and Chinese philosophic influences on Mao? Is the doctrine of "permanent" or "continuous" revolution inherent in Maoism or a departure from "true" Maoism?

   Benjamin Schwartz. Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao (Harvard, 1951)


   Stuart Schram. The Political Thought of Mao Tse-tung (Prager, 1969)

   Maurice Meisner. Marxism, Maoism, and Utopianism (Wisconsin, 1982)


   Frederic Wakeman. History and Will: Philosophic Perspectives of Mao Tse-tung's Thought (California, 1973)


   Allen Whiting. China Crosses the Yalu: The Decision to Enter the Korean War (NY, 1960)


Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolution
V. Nee and D. Moxing (eds.), State and Society in Contemporary China (Cornell, 1983)
Vivienne Shue, The Reach of the State (Stanford, 1988)
Richard Kraus, Class Conflict in Chinese Socialism (Columbia, 1981)

5. Industrialization during the Mao Era.

Alexander Eckstein, China's Economic Revolution (NY, 1977)
Stephen Andors, China's Industrial Revolution (Pantheon, 1977)
Barry Richman, Industrial Society in Communist China (NY, 1969)
Thomas Rawski, China's Transition to Industrialism (NY, 1980)
Andrew Walder, Dwight Perkins, Market Control and Planning in Communist China (Harvard, 1966)
Audrey Donnithorne, China's Economic System (NY, 1966)
Dwight Perkins (ed.), Rural Small-Scale Industry in the People's Republic of China (California, 1977)
Jon Sigurdson, Rural Industrialization in China (Harvard, 1977)


John Wong, Land Reform in China (NY, 1973)
C.K. Yang, A Chinese Village in Early Communist Transition (MIT, 1959)
Vivienne Shue, Peasant China in Transition (California, 1990)
Edward Friedman, Paul Pickowicz, Mark Selden and Kay Ann Johnson, Chinese Village, Socialist State (Yale, 1991)

7. Intellectuals.

Jerome Grieder, Intellectuals and the State in Modern China (The Free Press, 1981)
Merle Goldman, China’s Intellectuals: Advise and Dissent (Harvard, 1981)
Anne Thurston, Enemies of the People: The Ordeal of Intellectuals in China’s Great Cultural Revolution (NY, 1987)
Roderick MacFarquhar (ed.), The Hundred Flowers Campaign and the Chinese Intellectuals (NY, 1960)

8. Women: Chinese Communism and Sexual Inequality.

Delia Davin, Woman-Work: Women and the Party in Revolutionary China (London, 1976)
Marilyn Young (ed.), Women in China (Ann Arbor, 1973)
Elisabeth Croll, Feminism and Socialism in China (London, 1975)


Margery Wolf. *Revolution Postponed: Women in Contemporary China*

9. The Chinese Army (PLA),

John Gittings. *The Role of the Chinese Army*


Ellis Joffe. *The Chinese Army After Mao*


Neale Hunter. *Shanghai Journal* (Beacon, 1971)


Liang Heng. *Son of Revolution* (NY, 1983)

Anne Thurston. *Enemies of the People*

G. Barme (transl.). *The Wounded: New Stories of the Cultural Revolution* (Hong Kong, 1979)


Andrew Walder. *Chang Ch'iu-ch'ao and Shanghai's January Revolution* (Ann Arbor, 1977)


Stanley Rosen. *Red Guard Factionalism and the Cultural Revolution in Guangzhou [Canton]* (Boulder, 1982)

Stanley Rosen. *The Role of Sent-Down Youth in the Chinese Cultural Revolution* (California, 1981)

11. Education.


Stewart Fraser (ed.). *Education and Communism in China* (Hong Kong, 1969)

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

Suzanne Pepper. *China's Universities*