

History 342 Fall 2011

University of Wisconsin-Madison

MWF 2:25-3:15pm Grainger 1280

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Office Hours: W 11-12, F 12:30-1:30, and by appointment; 4120 Humanities



HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 1949 TO THE PRESENT¹

This course explores China's radical transformations since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949, a culmination of China's century of revolution. We will examine the course and consequences of socialist campaigns, reforms, and recent rise of the Chinese economy, with a focus on historical legacies, internal diversity, and global connections.

Class meetings comprise lectures, discussion, a simulation game, and presentations. We will critically analyze a wide range of visual and textual materials, including historical documents, films, propaganda materials, news reports, and memoirs.

READINGS

The following required books are available at the University Bookstore and on reserve at the College Library.

- Rebecca Karl, *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World* (Duke, 2010)
- *Li Fengjin: How the New Marriage Law Helped Chinese Women Stand Up* (Opal Mogus Books)

¹ The illustrations on this syllabus are papercuts from mid-1970s China. Designer unknown. Accessed on July 27, 2011, <http://www.chineseposters.net>

- Rae Yang, *Spider Eaters: A Memoir* (California, 1998)
- Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (Spiegel & Grau, reprint, 2009)

Additional readings (marked with *) can be accessed via MyUW: Click on “Learning” tab, followed by “Course Resources.” Look for “Library/Reserves” under History 342.

REQUIREMENTS

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| 1. Attendance and participation | 10% |
| 2. Sudden quizzes on readings | 10% |
| 3. Short report of 2 pages on land reform game (Due Sept. 28) | 10% |
| 4. Midterm exam (Oct. 24) | 20% |
| 5. China correspondent project (details on page 5) | 30% |
| a. Group presentation during week of Dec. 5 | |
| b. Individual article of 5 pages with bibliography due on the day of presentation | |
| 6. Cumulative take-home exam (Due Dec. 20) | 20% |

SCHEDULE

Sep. 2	F	Introduction
Sep. 5	M	Labor Day. No Class.
Sep. 7	W	Marxism and Mao Zedong Karl, 1-34
Sep. 9	F	The 1949 Revolution Film: “The Mao Years,” part 1
Sep. 12	M	New Order Karl, 35-72 <i>Correspondent project guidelines distributed</i>
Sep. 14	W	Land Reform Karl, 73-97
Sep. 16	F	Marriage Reform Yang, 1-30
Sep. 19	M	Discussion: <i>Li Fengjin</i> <i>Sign up for a news team</i>
Sep. 21	W	Land Reform Game Briefing <i>Post-game report guidelines distributed</i>



chineseporters.net


- Sep. 23 F **Land Reform Game, session 1**
- Sep. 26 M **Land Reform Game, session 2**
- Sep. 28 W Industrialization and Collectivization
Post-game report due



chinese-posters.net

- Sep. 30 F Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom
Yang, 31-57
- Oct. 3 M Great Leap Forward
Karl, 99-116
- Oct. 5 W Famines and Restoration
- Oct. 7 F Film: "The Mao Years," part 2
- Oct. 10 M Socialist Education
Yang, 58-86
Groups report on project progress this week
- Oct. 12 W Cultural Revolution
Karl, 117-138
Yang, 87-129
- Oct. 14 F Film: *Morning Sun*, part 1
Yang, 130-173
- Oct. 17 M Film: *Morning Sun*, part 2
Yang, 174-216
Midterm study guide distributed
- Oct. 19 W Discussion: *Spider Eaters* and *Morning Sun*
Yang, 217-285
- Oct. 21 F Death of Mao
Karl, 139-158
- Oct. 24 M **Midterm Exam**
- Oct. 26 W Democracy Wall Movement
Karl, 168-184
*Wei Jingsheng, "Democracy: The Fifth Modernization"
- Oct. 28 F Rural Reforms

Chang, 3-43

Oct. 31	M	Urban Reforms Chang, 44-97	
Nov. 2	W	One-Child Policy Chang, 98-170	
Nov. 4	F	Social Discontents and 1989 Chang, 171-245 *Selections from Oksenberg et al, <i>Beijing Spring</i>	
Nov. 7	M	Film: <i>Gate of Heavenly Peace</i> , part 1 Groups report on project process this week	
Nov. 9	W	GHP, part 2	
Nov. 11	F	GHP, part 3	
Nov. 14	M	Film Discussion *Wasserstrom, "Tian'anmen's Shifting Legacy"	
Nov. 16	W	Reforms Resumed Chang, 246-302	
Nov. 18	F	Migrant Lives Chang, 303-359 *Jacka, "Migrant Women's Stories"	
Nov. 21	M	Discussion: <i>Factory Girls</i> Chang, 360-409	
Nov. 23	W	Work on your project. No Class.	
Nov. 25	F	Thanksgiving. No Class.	
Nov. 28	M	U.S.-China Misunderstandings *Mihm, "A Nation of Outlaws" *Pomeranz, "Follow the Money" *Hanser, "Yellow Peril Consumerism"	
Nov. 30	W	Guest Lecture: Galen Poor, "Zheng He at the Beijing Olympics: Symbol of China's 'Peaceful Rise'"	

Dec. 2	F	Group Presentation 1
Dec. 5	M	Group Presentation 2
Dec. 7	W	Group Presentation 3
Dec. 9	F	Group Presentation 4
Dec. 12	M	“Harmonious Society” <i>Cumulative take-home exam distributed</i>
Dec. 14	W	Conclusion: “The Rise of China”?

Take-Home Exam due on Dec. 20

POLICIES

- If you need any accommodations related to your attendance or performance in this course, please inform me during the first two weeks of class.
- As a courtesy, please do not use your cell phone or the internet when class is in session.
- If you miss a lecture, find another student who can share notes and announcements with you.
- Request for deadline extension or make-up exam will only be accepted with a doctor’s note. Unexcused late papers will be docked for 10% per day.
- All students are held to high standards of academic excellence and integrity. Plagiarism, meaning quoting or basing your ideas on the work of another person without proper citation, is a serious offence. All cases will be reported. Learn how to avoid it:
http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

CHINA CORRESPONDENT PROJECT (30%)

You are a China correspondent with excellent historical and contemporary knowledge of the PRC. Your assignment is to bring historical insight and depth to a current news topic, making your feature story one of the most interesting and compelling. This project has two components: a collaborative group presentation (20%) and an individual article of 5 pages (10%). You will join one of the four news teams below:

1. **Environmental Crises**
 - water and air pollution, deforestation, the Three Gorges Dam, etc.
2. **The World’s Factory**
 - workers, labor protests, global capitalism, etc.
3. **Nationalisms**
 - Xinjiang, Tibet, patriotic education, popular nostalgia for the Mao era, anti-Japanese protests, dissidents, etc.
4. **Youth Cultures**
 - social media and the internet, attitudes toward sex, marriage and family, opportunities for education and employment, etc.

Schedule	
Sept. 12	Project guidelines distributed
Sept. 19	Sign up for a news team. Get to know your teammates
Week of Oct. 10	Groups report on progress in class
Week of Nov. 7	Groups report on progress in class
Week of Dec. 5	Presentation and submission of individual article with bibliography

USEFUL SITES

The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com>
 China Beat: Blogging how the East is Red: <http://thechinabeat.org/>
 China Digital Times: <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/>
 China Media Project: <http://cmp.hku.hk/>
 Danwei: <http://www.danwei.com/>
 Shanghaiist: <http://shanghaiist.com/>

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

Timothy Cheek, ed. *A Critical Introduction to Mao*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Kate Merkel-Hess, Kenneth L. Pomeranz, and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, eds with Miri Kim. Foreword by Jonathan Spence. *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.

Ching Kwan Lee and Guobin Yang, eds. *Re-envisioning the Chinese Revolution: The Politics and Poetics of Collective Memory in Reform China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007.

Catherine Lynch, Robert B. Marks, Paul G. Pickowicz, eds. *Radicalism, Revolution, and Reform in Modern China: Essays in Honor of Maurice Meisner*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011.

Maurice Meisner. *Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic*. Third Edition. New York: The Free Press, 1999.

Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom. *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.