

History 342 — The People's Republic of China, 1949 to the Present**TR 9:30-10:45****Van Hise 104****Brett Sheehan****Office: Humanities 4103****Phone: 263-1862****E-Mail: bsheehan@wisc.edu**

This course offers an in-depth examination of a short period in Chinese history, roughly from the 1920s to the present, with most focus on the period since 1949. We will study the Chinese Communist Revolution, foundation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the history of the PRC up to the present, including the Cultural Revolution and the post-Mao reforms. The course is organized around a theme of comparing the differing experiences of Chinese people in the cities and countryside over the course of this period. As we proceed through the course, you will need to think carefully about this comparison; you will be expected to be able to make some analytical conclusions about it.

There is a fairly heavy reading load and you are expected to read all of it carefully and thoughtfully. In order to make this possible, there will only be a limited number of other assignments.

Hard Copy Readings: (Available for purchase at University Book Store or on reserve at College Library)

Textbook:

Deitrich, Craig, *People's China: A Brief History* (Third Edition)

Other required readings:

Cao Guanlong, *The Attic: Memoir of a Landlord's Son*

Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen and Jonathan Unger, *Chen Village Under Mao and Deng*,
Nanchu, *Red Sorrow: A Memoir*,

Yang, Benjamin, *Deng: A Political Biography*

Yatsko, Pamela New *Shanghai: The Rocky Rebirth of China's Legendary City*

Zhang, Li, *Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks Within China's Floating Population*

Requirements:

Map Quiz 5% (see handout for details). **In lecture 2/17**

Midterm 30% (see midterm review guidelines for details - available approximately two weeks prior to the midterm). **In lecture 3/4**

Final 35% (see final review guidelines for details - available approximately three weeks prior to the final). **Due Friday May 14, 4:45 pm in TA's box or professor's box (for honors students)**

Section 30% — Based on attendance, participation and completion of 12 discussion-point papers.

Attendance in section is required and more than one absence will result in reduction of your section grade.

The discussion-point papers are short, informal essays, no longer than one page, in which you describe two or three issues or questions raised by the reading that particularly interested you and that you would like to discuss in section. They may be typed or hand written and are due at the beginning of each section. Be sure to provide evidence that you have read all the assignments. The discussion point papers will be graded on the following scale:

√+ Full credit for a synthetic and analytical view of the readings with thoughtful questions – 2 points.

√ A thoughtful take on the readings but with less analysis and synthesis – 1.7 points

√- A summary of the readings – 1.3 points

+ An incomplete summary of the readings – 1 point

- A half hearted attempt that shows you read some of the readings – 0.5 points

0 A attempt to fool us into thinking you have read the readings – 0 points

Module One: The Communist Revolution

Week One (1/20, 1/23) — China before 1949

Dietrich, xiii-xv, map following page xv and 3-49.

Yang, 3-83

Week Two (1/27, 1/29) — Space, Revolution, and Conquest (?)

Zhang, 7-10; 24-28

Dietrich, 50-82

Yang, 84-120

Module Two: Socialist Transformation(s), ca. 1952-1965

Week Three (2/3, 2/5) — The View from the Top

Dietrich, 83-177

Yang, 121-160

Week Four (2/10, 2/12) — The View from the City

Cao, 1-245

Week Five (2/17, 2/19) — The View from the Countryside

Chan, et al., 1-102

(Map Quiz 2/17)

Module Three: The Cultural Revolution

Week Six (2/24, 2/26) — The View from the Top

Dietrich, 178-235

Yang, 161-188

Week Seven (3/2, 3/4) — The View from the Countryside

Chan et al., 103-266

(Midterm 3/4)

Week Eight (3/9, 3/11) — The View from the City

Nanchu, 1-142

Spring Recess (3/14-3/16)

Week Nine (3/23, 3/25) — Stagnation in City and Country?

Nanchu, 143-271

Module Four: The World After Mao

Week Ten (3/30, 4/1) — The View from the Top: 1980s

Dietrich, 236-295

Yang, 189-254

Week Eleven (4/6, 4/8) — The View from the Top: 1990s

Dietrich, 296-333

Yang, 255-288

Week Twelve (4/13, 4/15) — Reform in the Countryside and City

Chan et al., 267-333

Yatsko, 1-90

Week Thirteen (4/20, 4/22) — Reform in Cities

Yatsko, 91-298

Week Fourteen (4/27, 4/29) — Countryside Comes to the City I

Zhang, 1-114

Week Fifteen (5/4, 5/6) — City and Countryside in the PRC

Zhang, 115-221

**Final Examination Due in TA's mailbox (honors section in professor's mailbox) by
Friday May14, 2004, 2:45 pm**