

History 342: History of Modern China, 1949-Present

The Basics

Instructor: Professor Judd C. Kinzley

Office Hours: Held online, Tuesdays 1-3 and by appointment

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Lectures: Videos will be posted on Canvas every Mondays and Wednesday (except holidays) by 9:00 AM

Introduction and Format

How should we think about China's "rise" in the years following the death of Chairman Mao Zedong in 1976? There is a general assumption that China's emergence as a global economic, political, and military power in recent decades is a product of the rejection of Maoism along with the revolutionary ideals propagated by the Chinese Communist Party after their 1949 revolution. While on some level this is certainly true, it is worth considering the ways in which modern China remains rooted in and shaped by Mao's China. This course seeks to provide students with a deeper understanding of contemporary China by focusing on the country's history since Mao's 1949 revolution. After a very brief history of the pre-1949 period, this course will dive into China's history in the years following the CCP's successful revolution, discuss the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolutions, address the changes in China following Mao's death and the rise of Deng Xiaoping and end with the staging of the Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

While this course is being offered online (asynchronously), it is still a lecture course. I plan to upload three or four short video lectures per session. Each video will be between 10 and 15 minutes long and will be focused on a specific theme. I will also upload a brief video for each class in which I sum up the larger threads connecting each video and offer three and four discussion questions. Students are asked to submit a weekly response to be submitted every Friday that takes one of these questions and answers it (more on the expectations for this assignment below). For anyone that has questions related to the material, I will open up a weekly discussion thread in Canvas. Students should check the thread regularly, and I will answer questions posted there. Students are required to register for a discussion session. In discussion, students will interact with the readings and will one another. These discussions will be led by the TA Aijie Shi.

There are no specific pre-requisites for the class and there are no language requirements for the class. So if you know absolutely nothing about China or Chinese language - **DON'T WORRY!** Some understanding of Chinese history in the years preceding 1949 might be helpful for context. So for those who have not taken the course History 341 (which covers Chinese history from 1800-1949) and are interested in gaining a bit more context, I would recommend that you peruse Jonathan Spence's *Search for Modern China* textbook. But again, this is not necessary for the class.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course you will:

- Acquire the historical context to be able to analyze and understand contemporary China.

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- Through lectures, discussions, and writing assignments, you will come to understand the ways in which China today has been shaped by the historical events that have unfolded since 1949.
- **Gain the tools to be able to read and critically evaluate primary sources**
 - Primary sources are the raw materials of historical inquiry and in this course, you will have numerous opportunities to read and analyze historical documents like a historian
 - Evaluating primary sources are an important part of the final project
- **Know how to make a historical argument and be able to use primary sources to support those arguments**
 - The essay portion on the midterm and final exams as well, the weekly response papers, and the final project are all geared toward helping you work with primary sources.

Textbooks

In the readings for this class, I have sought to strike a balance between primary (firsthand) sources and secondary (historiographical) sources. Don't worry if you're already confused, we will talk about the differences between primary and secondary sources over the course of the semester. You are expected to come to class having done the readings, as we will discuss issues related to the readings during lecture. In addition, you will also be responsible for material covered in the readings for the exams. All of the textbooks should be available in the University Bookstore and also on reserve. All additional readings (marked with a star (*) in the "weekly schedule" below are available in electronic format on learn@uw.

- Chen Jo-hsi, *The Execution of Mayor Yin* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979)
[Any edition is fine]
- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words* (New York: Vintage Books, 2012)
- Ji Xianlin, *The Cowshed: Memories of the Cultural Revolution* (New York: New York Review of Books, 2016)

*All texts should be available in the University Bookstore and also on reserve. All additional readings (marked with a star *) are available in electronic format on CANVAS

Grades and Assessments

1. Exams: 50 percent (midterm: 25 percent, final: 25 percent). The midterm and final exams are intended to ensure that you are engaging with lecture materials and the readings. The midterm will be distributed on October 19 and will be due on **October 21**. The final will be a take-home exam that I will give out on the last day of class and will be distributed on December 7 due at noon on **December 9**. The exams will consist of two sections: an "identifications" section in which you will be asked to recall the significance of various historical actors and events, and an "essay" section, in which you will synthesize this material and make historical arguments using course readings and information from lecture to support those arguments. The final exam will not be cumulative and will also include identification and essay sections.

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2. Final Project: 25 percent. You will complete a final analytical project for this class. The grade for this project will be a combination of two preliminary assignments (2.5 percent each) and the final project (20 percent) itself. In order to give you the opportunity to pursue your own specific interests, you can choose one of four different types of projects. 1. Analyze cultural products produced during the Mao Zedong period (1949-1976) – e.g. songs, films, operas, or posters. 2. A book review of two or more Cultural Revolution memoirs (for a start, see: *Life and Death in Shanghai*; *Spider Eaters*; *Born Red*; *Red Azalea*; *Red Scarf Girl*; *Red Sorrow*; *Blood Red Sunset*; *The Little Red Guard*; *Confessions: An Innocent Life in Communist China* – you cannot use *The Cowshed* as one of the central texts in your paper, as it is one of the course textbooks). 3. An oral history of a specific event in the post-1949 period (you must interview at least four different people for this, and supplement these accounts with primary source research). 4. A more traditional research project which relies on a set of 5 or more primary resources. The catch for all of these projects is that they must rely on *primary source* research (including anything from government documents, to newspaper articles to diaries, to films). Each project should be between 6-8 pages, must have an argument, a beginning middle and end, and should rely on at least 5 primary sources. In order to make sure students are on track, there are two assignments over the course of the semester. The first is a one to two paragraph project proposal with a list of sources. The second is a short description of the historical context for your project as well as your larger argument. The due-dates for these assignments are clearly noted in bold in the course schedule below. If you need help on this or are confused, do not hesitate to get in touch with me early in the semester. The project is due in class on **November 23**.

3. Weekly Response Paper Grade: 15 percent.

After every class session I will provide a list of between three and four discussion questions that cover the themes covered in that week's readings and lectures. Students must choose one or two questions and answer them in a two to three page reading response (double spaced, 12 point font). The questions I offer will focus on larger issues like: what is the nature of the Chinese revolution? What are the foundations of the cult of Mao? And what are the connections between the democracy movement and the Chinese Cultural Revolution? Questions like these are still being debated by historians today and there are no right or wrong answers. You are expected to draw upon the readings in order to answer the questions. Discussion responses are to be **submitted electronically every Wednesday by 9:00 AM**. Out of 14 weeks (not including the first week of class), students are only responsible for submitting 10 response papers. They will be graded as "satisfactory", "unsatisfactory", or "no credit." Please note that **you must draw primarily on class readings to get full credit**.

4. Discussion Section Grade: 10 percent. The discussion session is an important opportunity for you to be able to work through major themes that we will cover in class in a small group setting. Section is moderated and overseen by the TA Shi Aijie. There also will be opportunities in section to work through questions about primary sources and writing historical arguments. Your grade will be based on attendance and participation and will be assessed by Aijie alone.

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Credits and Honors

This three credit carries the expectation that you will spend an average of 3 hours outside of class for each class period. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of 6 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for exams for this class. In addition, there are opportunities for students to take the course for honors credit. If you want to explore the option, please schedule a meeting with me, as there are additional expectations and assignments.

Notes on Coronavirus

I am sure that I do not need to tell anyone that the University and indeed the world is going through something quite unique. With that in mind, I first ask that all students abide very clearly by University health regulations. In particular, **for those of you taking a discussion session in-person, I must insist that you wear a properly fitted mask while in the classroom!** The History Department has directed instructors to halt the class and, if necessary, leave the classroom if anyone in the room is not wearing a properly fitted mask.

Beyond this. I just want to ask for everyone's flexibility and understanding, as we all collectively try to navigate this unusual situation. Things might change in the course or on campus based on the progress of the disease. Aijie and I will do our best to make sure that this does not impact the class. But there is a possibility that things will change in how we administer the course, we can only ask that you please bear with us. What I can say is that Aijie and I will do our very best to keep you in the loop on any changes. For your part, please let either or both of us know if your situation changes: **if you have health issues, technological programs, or things that you are dealing with in your home situation that impacts your participation in the course, please let us know!** We are both very happy and willing to try and help, but to do that you need to keep us in the loop.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will be treated very seriously. In every instance of plagiarism or cheating, I will mark the assignment with a zero and the case will be referred to the proper University authorities. Please note that any instance in which you draw on the words or ideas of others without proper credit or citation is considered plagiarism. New technologies like turnitin.com make it easy to catch plagiarizers and I have caught people plagiarizing assignments in the past. If you have questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Yaowen. For further information on University of Wisconsin-Madison's policies on plagiarism or academic dishonesty more generally, please refer to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for the University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>

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Weekly Schedule

[Note 1: The days marked below indicate the days that I will post lecture videos]

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[Note 2: Readings marked with a * are available on the Canvas course page; those marked with a - are from one of the course textbooks]

[Note 3: All days outlined with a rectangle are days where major assignments are due]

WEEK 1

Wednesday, September 2 - Introductions

*Chen Tu-hsiu (Chen Duxiu), "A Call to Youth", Li Ta-chao, "The Victory of Bolshevism," in Teng and Fairbank, *China's Response to the West*, 240-246, 246-249

WEEK 2

Monday, September 7, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Wednesday, September 9 - The Roots of Chinese Radicalism

Readings:

* Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China* (Interviews with Mao), 129-149

WEEK 3

Monday, September 14 - Revolutionary Ideologies

Readings:

* Mao Zedong, "Report on the Peasant Movement in Hunan" (1927) in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions*, 41-76

Wednesday, September 16 - The Emergence of the Modern CCP

Readings:

* "Liu Shaoqi: How to be a Good Communist" in *Search for Modern China* (333-335)

* "Democratic Dictatorship" in *The Search for Modern China* (350-351)

* "Mao Zedong: 'Leaning to One Side'"; "Mao Zedong: 'Stalin is Our Commander'", "Guo Moruo: Ode to Stalin - 'Long Live Stalin' on his Seventieth Birthday" in *Sources of Chinese Tradition* (452-455)

WEEK 4

Monday, September 21 - The Honeymoon?

Readings:

* Joseph Esherick, "The Ye Family in New China" in *Dilemmas of Victory: the Early Years of the People's Republic of China*, 311-336

Wednesday, September 23 - Leaning to One Side

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Readings:

- * Mao Zedong "The Chinese People Cannot Be Cowed by the Atom Bomb" (1955), Mao Zedong "US Imperialism is a Paper Tiger" (1956) in *The Search for Modern China: a Documentary Collection* (382, 382-385)
- * Ding Ling, *The Sun Shines Over the Sanggan River*, excerpt (1948) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 416-421

WEEK 5

Monday, September 28 – Planning for a New China

- * Ji Yun, "How China Proceeds with the Task of Industrialization" (1953) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2 455-456
- * Li Fuqun "Report on the First Five-Year Plan for Development of the National Economy of the National Economy of the People's Republic of China in 1953-1957" (1955) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2 456-457

Wednesday, September 30 – Radicalizing the Revolution

Readings:

- * Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" (1957) in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents* 127-149
- * Wang Meng, "A New Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department" (1956) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 429-434

WEEK 6

Monday, October 5 – Experiencing the Great Leap **ASSIGNMENT 1 (proposal/source list) DUE TODAY**

Readings:

- * Li Zhisui, "The Emperor of Zhongnanhai" in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents*, 204-209
- * Yin Zeming, "The Strength of the Masses Is Limitless" (1958) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 404-406
- * Zhou Xun, "Famine in the Communes" in *The Great Famine in China, 1958-1962*, 1-17

Wednesday, October 7 – China and the Soviet Union

Readings:

- * "American Imperialism Is Closely Surrounded by the People's of the World" (1964) in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents*, 167-168
- * "The Origins and Development of the Differences Between the Leadership of the CPSU and Ourselves" (1963) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 413-416
- * Lin Biao, "Mao Tse-tung's Theory of People's War" in *Communist China: Revolutionary Reconstruction and International Confrontation*, 347-359

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WEEK 7

Monday, October 12 - Easing off the Throttle

Readings:

- * Mao Zedong, "Just a Few Words" in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents*, 177-179
- * Wu Han, "Hai Rui Scolds the Emperor" (excerpt) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 471-474

Wednesday, October 14 - The Cult of Mao:

Readings:

- * Daniel Leese, "A Single Spark" in *Mao's Little Red Book: A Global History* 23-42

WEEK 8

Monday, October 19 - Unleashing a New Revolution:

Readings:

- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "Writing"
- * Mao Zedong "Bombard the Headquarters" (1966) in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents*, 170-171
- * "The Sixteen Point Declaration" (1966) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 426-430
- * Wen Jieruo, "Living Hell" in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, 703-709

Wednesday, October 21 - Red Guards and Mao's Revolution,

Readings:

- Chen Jo-hsi, *Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories*, "The Execution of Mayor Yin"
- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "Lu Xun", "Grassroots", "Reading",

WEEK 9

Monday, October 26 - The Global Resonances of the Cultural Revolution

Readings **MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED**

- Start reading *The Cowshed*

- * Robin D.G. Kelley and Betsy Esche, "Black Like Mao: Red China and Black Revolution" (1989) in *Souls* (Fall 1999) 6-41

Wednesday, October 28 **MIDTERM DUE**

WEEK 10

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Monday, November 2 – No Class; ONLINE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH PROFESSOR KINZLEY

Readings:

- Chen Jo-hsi, *Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories*, “Night Duty”, “Jen Hsiu-lan,”
- * Ba Jin “Remembering Xiao Shan” in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, 692-702

Wednesday, November 4 – Ending the Revolution;

Readings:

- Chen Jo-hsi, *Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories*, “The Big Fish”, “Nixon’s Press Corps”
- * “Shanghai Communique” (1972) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 435-440

WEEK 11

Monday, November 9 – Losing Mao: Finding the Way Forward; ASSIGNMENT 2 (historical context/argument) DUE TODAY

Readings:

- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, “Leader”
- Finish Reading *The Cowshed*
- * “Mourning with Deepest Grief the Passing Away of the Great Leader and Great Teacher Chairman Mao Zedong” (1976) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 443-446
- * Deng Xiaoping, “Uphold the Four Basic Principles” in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 492-493

Wednesday, November 11 – New Directions for the CCP

Readings

- * Liu Binyan, “Sound is Better than Silence” in *People or Monsters*, 98-137
- * Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, “Some Questions on Party History” (1981) in *Mao Zedong and China’s Revolutions: A Brief History with Documents*, 216-219
- * Deng Xiaoping, “Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth from Facts and Unite as One in Looking to the Future” (1978) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 447-451

WEEK 12

Monday, November 16 – China and the World (II);

Readings:

- * “Speech by Han Nianlong” (1979) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 460-464
- * Chen Yun, “Speech Given at the Chinese Communist National Representative Conference (1985) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, 510-512

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Wednesday, November 18 – Democracy and Deng,

Readings:

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* Wei Jingsheng, "The Fifth Modernization – Democracy" (1978) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, 497-500

* "Democracy or New Dictatorship" (excerpt from *Exploration*) (1979) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, 500-501

* Fang Lizhi, "Interview with Tiziano Terzani" (1987) in *Bringing Down the Great Wall: Writings on Science, Culture, and Democracy in China*, 207-217

WEEK 13

Monday, November 23 - Confronting the Party, **FINAL PROJECT DUE**

Readings:

* Deng Liqun on Propaganda" in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 467-470

* Liu Binyan, "A Case of Persecution in Xi'an in Disregard of Central Instructions" (1984) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 470-475

- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "The People"

Wednesday, November 25 - Thanksgiving, **NO CLASS**

WEEK 14

Monday November 30 - Turning Point at Tiananmen

Readings:

* "Li Peng's Announcement of Martial Law" (May 20, 1989) in *Search for Modern China: a Documentary Collection*, 495-500

- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "Revolution", "Copycat"

* "Official" in Luisa Lim, *The People's Republic of Amnesia*, 157-181

Wednesday, December 2 Capitalism and Nationalism

Readings:

* "The Non-Dissident: A Party Man Betrayed" in *China Candid*, 40-58

* Wu Jiaxiang "An Outline for Studying the New Authoritarianism" (1989) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, 520-522

WEEK 15

Monday December 7, China Today (and Tomorrow) **FINAL EXAM WILL BE POSTED TODAY**

Readings:

- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "Disparity", "Bamboozle"

* Liu Xiaobo, "Charter 08", "I Have No Enemies" in *Liu Xiaobo: No Enemies, No Hatred*, 300-312, 321-326

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Wednesday December 9, No Class, FINAL EXAM DUE BY 12 PM