

History 342: History of Modern China, 1949-Today

The Basics

Instructor: Professor Judd C. Kinzley

- Office Hours (Humanities 4121): Mondays 10:30-12:30 and by appointment
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TA: Kharis Ralph

- Office Hours (Humanities 4268), Thursdays 10:50-12:50
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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 the Chinese Communist Party'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.

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!** This class is not intended to test your abilities to pronounce the names of Chinese historical actors or know unfamiliar Chinese place names. Rather, I hope that this class will give you the tools to understand China's wider historical context. I will not penalize or make fun of you for mispronunciations and neither will your classmates. I am happy to suggest additional readings if you would like more background on Chinese history - please don't hesitate to reach out. 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.

Textbooks and Readings

The readings for the course are a combination of a textbook and primary resource materials. If you want a hardcopy of the Tanner book, there are multiple copies available for purchase online. In addition, the Tanner book is also available in full-text, online hosted by our library. Ji Xianlin's *The Cowshed* is also available for purchase online. All additional readings for the course will be provided on the course Canvas page.

One final note on readings: we will often discuss readings in lecture, so students are expected to stay up to date with the readings.

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- Harold Tanner, *China: A History*, Vol. 2 (Hackett Publishing, 2010)
- Ji Xianlin, *The Cowshed: Memories of the Cultural Revolution* (New York: New York Review of Books, 2016)

Grades and Assessments

1. Exams: 40 percent (20 percent for the midterm and 20 percent for the final). The midterm exam will be held in class on **March 7**. The final exam will be on the class' exam day, **May 8** (8:30-9:45). Each exam will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The questions for the midterm will be drawn from readings and lectures from the first half of the course. The questions for the final exam will be drawn only from material in the second half of the class. A study guide for each exam will be circulated at least one week in advance.

2. Final Project: 20 percent (15 percent for the final project and 2.5 percent each for the two preliminary assignments)

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 (15 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, or operas. 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. Analyze Mao-era propaganda, including propaganda posters, slogans, or campaigns. 4. 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). The catch for all of these projects is that they must rely on *primary source* research. Do not worry if you don't know what this means, we will cover it in class and in discussion section.

The project will likely consist of a paper (I am open to the idea of different type of format for the final project, but please clear it with Khari and I first) should be between 8-10 pages, must have an argument, a beginning middle and end, and should rely on at least 5 primary sources. In order to make sure you 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 (**Due February 28**). The second is a short description of the historical context for your project as well as your larger argument (**Due April 13**). The due-dates for these assignments are also 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 on the last day of class: **May 4**.

Students will also need to schedule a one-on-one meeting with me in either Week 6 or Week 7 to talk over their ideas for the project. A sign-up sheet will be available on line.

3. Group Projects: 25 percent (15 percent for the debate and 10 percent for the in-class exercise) In order to help students engage more deeply with the readings and course material, we will hold two group debates and a group exercise this semester.

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- **Debate:** The first debate will be held on **April 4** (1971: The Party debates China's Relationship with the United States) and the second on **April 25** (1989: The Party Debates How to Resolve the Crisis in Beijing). Each student will be divided into a group, and each group will be assigned a position to advocate for in either the first debate or the second (to be clear, **you will only participate in one of the two debates during the semester!**). There will be at least two class sessions where we will use some of the time for groups to meet. Each group will jointly research and write up a 7-9 page position paper. These positions will be based on books, research articles, and primary sources that Kharis and I will provide, as well as other sources that you all uncover. Each group will present their position in an open discussion/debate in front of the whole class, and students not participating in that group discussion will ask questions and, based on the arguments, vote for an outcome.
- **Land Reform Game:** We will also hold a **group in-class exercise on February 16** that will simulate the Chinese Communist Party's Land Reform campaign in a rural village in North China. For this exercise, everyone will be assigned a character in advance. Students are expected to prepare for the role by studying materials you are given by Kharis and I and by having completed all of the readings. Students will be assessed based on their performance in the exercise as well as on a 2-3 page reflection on the exercise which will be handed in on **February 21**.

4. Discussion Section/Source Analysis Grade: 15 percent (10 percent for response papers and 5 percent for participation in discussion section). There is a discussion section for this course and students are required to attend and participate. Section grades will be assessed by Kharis Ralph (the TA for this course).

Students are also expected to submit five source analysis papers over the course of the semester. This paper, which should be between two and three pages will be **due on the Friday of the week** that we read that source. In this paper, students will deeply analyze a course reading from the list of 13 below:

- **Week 2:** Mao Zedong, "Report on the Peasant Movement in Hunan" (1927) in *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions*, 41-76
- **Week 3:** Ding Ling, *The Sun Shines Over the Sanggan River*, excerpt (1948) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 416-421
- **Week 3:** Mao, "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship" (June 30, 1949)
- **Week 5:** * Wang Meng, "A New Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department" (1956) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 429-434
- **Week 6:** * Wu Han, "Hai Rui Scolds the Emperor" (excerpt) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*
- **Week 9:** Wen Jieruo, "Living Hell" in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, 703-709
- **Week 12:** ** 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
- **Week 12:** Liu Binyan, "Sound is Better than Silence" in *People or Monsters*, 98-137
- **Week 13:** Wei Jingsheng, "The Fifth Modernization - Democracy" (1978) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, 497-500
- **Week 13:** 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
- **Week 14:** "Posters Calling for Democracy" (1989) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 496-500

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- **Week 15:** Bourgeois and Socialist Democracies Compared” (1990) *People’s Daily*, in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, 501-504
 - **Week 15:** Liu Xiaobo “Behind the China Miracle” in *Liu Xiaobo: No Enemies, No Hatred*, 228-239; 223-227
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Course Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday, January 24: Introductions

Thursday, January 26: The Birth of Chinese Radicalism

Readings:

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

Week 2

Tuesday, January 31: Forging a Revolutionary Ideology

Readings:

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

Thursday, February 2: War and the Modern CCP

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 160-187

*William Hinton, *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village* (selection), 3-14

Week 3

Tuesday, February 7: The Liberation of China

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 193-200

* Ding Ling, *The Sun Shines Over the Sanggan River*, excerpt (1948) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 416-421

*William Hinton, *Fanshen* (selection), 17-36

Thursday, February 9: The Lost Chance and the Korean War

Readings:

Mao, “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” (June 30, 1949)

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* William Hinton, *Fanshen* (selection) 37-45

Week 4

Tuesday, February 14 Industrialization and the Soviet Model

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 202-204

* Ji Yun, "How China Proceeds with the Task of Industrialization" (1953) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2 455-456

*William Hinton, *Fanshen* (selection), 128-146

Thursday, February 16: Land Reform Game (In Class)

*William Hinton, *Fanshen*, 147-156

Week 5

Tuesday, February 21: Cleansing the Party

Assignment due: submit your reflection on the Land Reform Game

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 204-208 (top of 208)

* Wang Meng, "A New Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department" (1956) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 429-434

Thursday, February 23: The Great Leap Forward

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 208-211

*Mao Zedong, "Talks at the Beidaihe Conference" (August 1958) in Cheek, ed. *Mao Zedong and China's Revolutions*, 160-166

* Yin Zeming, "The Strength of the Masses Is Limitless" (1958) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 404-406

Week 6 [Schedule a One-on-One meeting time with Prof. Kinzley this week or next]

Tuesday, February 28: China's Revolution and the World

Assignment due: Final Project Proposal + Source List

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

Thursday, March 2: The End of Maoism?

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Readings

Tanner, *China: A History*, 211-217

* Wu Han, "Hai Rui Scolds the Emperor" (excerpt) in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 471-474

Week 7

Tuesday, March 7: MIDTERM (In Class)

Thursday, March 9: NO CLASS

Week 8

Spring Break

Week 9

Tuesday, March 21: Mao Cult

Readings:

* Yu Hua, "Leader" in *China in Ten Words*, 15-35

Thursday, March 23 A New Revolution

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 217-221

- Start reading *The Cowshed*

* Mao Zedong "Bombard the Headquarters" (1966) and "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

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Week 10

Tuesday, March 28 The Reassertion of Party Control

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History* 221-225

Keep reading *The Cowshed*

* Chen Jo-hsi, "The Execution of Mayor Yin" in *The Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories*, 3-36

Thursday, March 30 Mao and the Global Revolution

Readings:

Keep reading *The Cowshed*

* Yu Hua, "Reading" in *China in Ten Words*, 36-61

Week 11

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Tuesday, April 4 Debate #1

Assignment due: Position Paper for Participants in Group Debate #1

Readings:

Keep reading *The Cowshed*

*Chen Jo-hsi, "Jen Hsiu-lan" in *Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories*, 115-136

Thursday, April 6 Burying the Cultural Revolution

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History* 225-228

Finish *The Cowshed*

* "Shanghai Communiqué" (1972) in *Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 435-440

Week 12

Tuesday, April 11 The Future and the Past

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 234-242

* Ba Jin "Remembering Xiao Shan" in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, 692-702

* 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

Thursday, April 13 Capitalism and Chinese Socialism

Assignment due: Final Project Historical Context + Argument

Readings:

* Liu Binyan, "Sound is Better than Silence" in *People or Monsters*, 98-137

Week 13

Tuesday, April 18, Economic Anxiety and Political Debates

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 242-250

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

*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

Thursday, April 20 Staking Out the Future of the CCP

Readings:

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

*Yu Hua, "Revolution" in *China in Ten Words*, 113-141

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Week 14

Tuesday, April 25 Debate #2

Assignment due: Position Paper Due for those participating in Group Debate #2

Readings:

*Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*, "The People", 3-14

"Posters Calling for Democracy" (1989) in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 496-500

Thursday, April 27 Tiananmen and After

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 250-256

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

Week 15

Tuesday, May 2 Exchanging Prosperity for Political Freedom

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 256-264

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

* "Bourgeois and Socialist Democracies Compared" (1990) *People's Daily*, in *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, 501-504

Thursday, May 4 The Three Pillars of the Modern CCP

Assignment due: Final Project

Readings:

Tanner, *China: A History*, 265-270

Liu Xiaobo "Behind the China Miracle" and "Behind the Rise of Great Powers" in *Liu Xiaobo: No Enemies, No Hatred*, 228-239; 223-227

Final Exam: May 8, 8:30-9:45