

## HIST 358 (001): Contemporary (Post-1949) China

### Professor Michael Chang

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Office hrs: Wed 11 am – 12 pm & by appt

### Course time and location:

Mon/Wed 1:30-2:45 pm

Music/Theater Building, Room 1005

Course website: <http://hist358.wordpress.com>

**Course Description:** In this course we will attempt to put recent and ongoing developments in contemporary China (the People's Republic of China or PRC) into a broader historical context by exploring the historical legacies—the successes and failures—of China's socialist revolution (1949-1976) as well as its era of post-socialist market reforms (1978-present). Themes to be explored include: the revolutionary heritage of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the goals and agendas of China's socialist state; the ideologies and policies that shaped urban and rural development; individual experiences of both revolutionary mass mobilizations and market reforms.

This course fulfills the Mason Core requirement for Global Understanding. As such, students will be encouraged to develop and demonstrate their capacities for intercultural empathy and understanding. Assignments throughout the semester will provide opportunities for students to identify and articulate their own values (especially in regard to issues of industrialization and development as well as problems of poverty and inequality) and to identify how these values might shape their interactions with others in both local and global contexts. Students will also have occasion to reflect upon how their studies of contemporary China might broaden and/or complicate their understanding of the issues and events unfolding in the contemporary world.

**Required Texts:** The titles below are all available for purchase at the GMU Barnes & Noble.

1. Linda Benson. *China Since 1949*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Taylor & Francis, 2016. [**be sure to get the 2016 “3<sup>rd</sup> edition”**]
2. \*\*E. Friedman, P. Pickowicz, M. Selden. *Chinese Village, Socialist State*. [CVSS] Yale Univ. Press, 1991.
3. Ye Weili (with Ma Xiaodong). *Growing Up in the People's Republic*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
4. Hsiao-Hung Pai. *Scattered Sand: The Story of China's Rural Migrants*. Verso, 2013.

**Additional Materials:** Assigned items in the course schedule marked by a **single asterisk (\*)** are available at the “Additional Materials” page at the top of the course website <http://hist358.wordpress.com> (password = china).

**Requirements & Grading:** You must complete (that is, demonstrate serious engagement with) **every** requirement in order to receive a passing grade. The instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes "completion" of a requirement.

**1. Participation (25%):** I expect you to attend all scheduled meetings and to be fully prepared. This means finishing the readings assigned for that day **before** coming to class. The quantity **and** quality of your written and oral contributions **in class and online** will be considered as indicators of your participation and engagement.

**2. In-class Map Quiz (3%):** A study guide will be provided on the first day of class. The quiz will be taken at the **start of class** on **Wed. 1/30/2019**. No make-ups will be allowed (unless prior arrangement has been made).

**3. Online and Viewing Exercises (12%):** You will be responsible for completing **three (3) online exercises, due by 5 p.m. on Sun. 2/17/2019, Sun. 3/17/2019, and Tue. 4/23/2019, as well as one (1) viewing exercise, due in-class on Mon. 4/8/2019**. Each of these four exercises will count as 3% of your overall course grade. More detailed instructions will be provided.

**4. Short Papers (35%):** You will be responsible for completing two (2) short (5-7 page) papers, **due in-class on Wed. 2/27/2019 and Wed. 3/27/2019**. Each paper will be worth 17.5% of your overall course grade. More guidelines regarding format and content will be provided in class.

**5. Take-Home Final Exam (25%):** essay(s); **due in my dept. mailbox by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Fri. 5/10/2019. No late work will be accepted for the final exam.**

## **Course Policies, Reminders, and Helpful Tips:**

**a) Class absences:** Students are expected to attend all meetings of the course. In the event that you must miss class, you are responsible for the contents of the lecture or discussion. **Students are expected to come to class on time.** Late arrivals are disruptive, and late-comers may miss important information or hand-outs.

**b) Cell phones and laptop computers:** During class all phones must be switched off and put away. Neither students nor instructors should compose, read, or respond to text messages during class. Students who wish to use a laptop computer for note-taking are welcome to do so. However, students who use laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., email, instant messaging, internet browsing unrelated to the course) will be asked to leave and will no longer be permitted to use a computer in class. Violation of these policies will result in a significant reduction in your course participation grade.

**c) Submission of written work:** All written work is due at the beginning of class in hard copy on the day indicated on the syllabus. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in a 12-point font. Your name should be on the paper, and all pages should be stapled and numbered. You must submit your work in hard copy only; no email attachments will be accepted (unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been made). You should, however, retain electronic copies of all written work, and your instructor may ask for an electronic copy of your paper in order to use it as an example in teaching or to submit to a plagiarism detection site like Turnitin.com.

**d) Late policy:** All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the deadlines for course assignments. Late work will be penalized **ONE FULL LETTER GRADE (10 pts.) per day (including weekends & holidays)**. The only exceptions will be when you have explicit, advance permission from your instructor. If you anticipate a problem in completing or submitting your work on time, you must contact the instructor in a timely manner. If you do not hear back from your instructor, you should assume that your work is due on the original date. Regardless of whether or not you have been granted an extension, you must contact your instructor for how to submit late work. Late assignments will not be considered as “received” until a hard copy is in the instructor’s hands. **No late work will be accepted for the take-home final exam.**

**e) Plagiarism: Don’t do it.** It’s easy to spot & can result in expulsion from the University and loss of degree. **What is plagiarism?** As noted by the American Historical Association (AHA), “Writers plagiarize... when they fail to use quotation marks around borrowed material and to cite the source, use an inadequate paraphrase that makes only superficial changes to a text, or neglect to cite the source of a paraphrase.” For details see pgs. 3-4 of this document: [http://www.historians.org/Documents/Plagiarism/Curriculum\\_Plagiarism.pdf](http://www.historians.org/Documents/Plagiarism/Curriculum_Plagiarism.pdf)

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, or about when or how to properly cite a source, talk to your instructor before you write! For more information see these very helpful websites:

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism>

**f) Academic accommodations.** If you are a student with a documented condition that warrants academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS** (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>). Additional support may be obtained through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

**g) Electronic communication.** It is best to contact me at mchang5[at]gmuedu. I usually check email during normal business hours, namely M-F, 8 am-5 pm. Please allow 24-48 hours for a reply to an email request or inquiry (excluding weekends). Please sure to indicate your course number in your email subject line and include both your first and last name in your signature. For general advice on the best way to communicate via email, see:

<http://web.wellesley.edu/SocialComputing/Netiquette/netiquetteprofessor.html>

<http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

**h) Academic Integrity:** All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>)

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review.

**i) Final disclaimer:** This syllabus is subject to revision as the semester proceeds. Announcements of changes will be made online and during class meetings. Students are responsible for being aware of any changes.

## Course Schedule

Dates	Lectures & Discussions	Assignments & Readings	Notices
1/23	<b>W:</b> Course introduction	<b>W:</b> buy your books; read Benson, Ch. 1-2 (3-16)	Distribute map quiz & Paper #1 guide
1/28 & 1/30	<b>M:</b> Crisis of Authority, 1912-1949 <b>Building New China, 1949-57</b> <b>W:</b> The Ideology of State Power	<b>M:</b> watch <i>*China: a Century of Revolution, Pt. 1, 1911-1949</i> (113 min.); read Benson, Ch. 3 (19-32) and <i>Chinese Village, Socialist State</i> [CVSS], Intro (xiii-xxiv). <b>W:</b> <b><u>IN-CLASS MAP QUIZ</u></b> ; CVSS, Ch. 1-3 (1-79)	Tue 1/29/19 Last day to add
2/4 & 2/6	<b>M:</b> Reorg. Urban & Rural Society <b>W:</b> Land Reform v. Collectivization	<b>M:</b> CVSS, Ch. 4 (80-110); <b>W:</b> CVSS, Ch. 5-7 (111-184)	
2/11 & 2/13	<b>M:</b> Following the Soviet Model <b>W:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 5-Yr. Plan & Conseq. of Industrialization, 1953-1957	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 4 (33-36) <b>W:</b> CVSS, Ch. 8-9 (185-245)	
2/18 & 2/20	<b>M:</b> discuss CVSS <b>High Maoism, 1958-1976</b> <b>W:</b> Great Leap Forward, 1958-60	<b>Sun 2/17/2019: ONLINE EXERCISE for CVSS due by 5 p.m.</b> <b>M:</b> CVSS, Ch. 10 and Conclusion (246-288) <b>W:</b> Benson, Docs. 7-8 (152-154); <i>*Wemheuer, "Dealing with Responsibility for the GLF"</i>	Fri 2/22/19 Last day to drop.
2/25 & 2/27	<b>M:</b> <i>Mao's Great Famine</i> (2012, 53 min.) <b>W:</b> Sino-Soviet Split and New Economic Policies, 1960-1965	<b>M:</b> <b>W:</b> <b><u>PAPER #1 DUE in class</u></b> Benson, Ch. 4 (36-46);	Distribute Paper #2 guide
3/4 & 3/6	<b>M:</b> The Cultural Revolution and Its Social Effects, 1966-69 <b>W:</b> The Cultural Revolution: Statist Phase, 1969-1976	<b>M:</b> <i>Growing Up in the PRC</i> , xi-xxiv (forward, chronology, and acknowledgements), Introduction (1-8), and Ch. 1-3 (9-96). <b>W:</b> read <i>*"Bowed &amp; Remorseful, Former Red Guard Recalls Teacher's Death"</i> ; watch <i>*Though I Was Dead</i> (2006, 68 min)	
3/11 & 3/13	<b>SPRING RECESS—NO CLASSES</b>	<b>SPRING RECESS—NO CLASSES</b> Finish <i>Growing Up in the PRC</i> , Ch. 4-6 (97-146) & Afterword (147-153);	3/11-3/17 Spring Recess
3/18 & 3/20	<b>M:</b> discuss <i>Growing Up in the PRC</i> <b>W:</b> Maoist Legacies	<b>Sun 3/17/2019: ONLINE EXERCISE for Growing Up due 5 pm</b> <b>M:</b> <b>W:</b> watch <i>* 1958-1969: Not a Dinner Party</i> (2006, 61 min)	
3/25 & 3/27	<b>Early Reforms, 1978-1989</b> <b>M:</b> Deng's Rise & Maoism's End <b>W:</b> Market Reforms & Econ. Dev	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 5 (47-54) <b>W:</b> <b><u>PAPER #2 DUE in class</u></b>	Fri 3/29/19 selective withdraw ends
4/1 & 4/3	<b>M:</b> Struggle for Democracy, 1980s <b>W:</b>	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 5 (55-59) and Docs. 13-14 (160-163) <b>W:</b>	Distribute <i>China in the Red</i> guide
4/8 & 4/10	<b>M:</b> Economic Growth in 1990s <b>W:</b> China's One-Child Policy	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 6-7 (60-77); watch <i>*Frontline: China in the Red</i> (110 min.) <b>fill-in viewing chart &amp; answer questions; DUE IN CLASS on Mon 4/8/2019</b> <b>W:</b> Benson, Ch. 8-10 (78-118); <i>*3 stories from New York Times.</i>	
4/15 & 4/17	<b>M:</b> Environment & Sustainability <b>W:</b> <i>Waking the Green Tiger</i> (2011, 78 min)	<b>M:</b> <i>Scattered Sand</i> , Fwd (ix-xiii), Pref (xiv-xvii), & Intro (1-13) <b>W:</b> <i>Scattered Sand</i> , Ch. 1-5 (15-163)	Distribute guidelines for final exam
4/22 & 4/24	<b>M:</b> Social Inequalities and the Urban-Rural Gap <b>W:</b> discuss <i>Scattered Sand</i>	<b>M:</b> <i>Scattered Sand</i> , Ch. 6 (164-206) <b>Tue 4/23/19: ONLINE EXERCISE for Scattered Sand due 5 pm</b> <b>W:</b> <i>Scattered Sand</i> , Ch. 7-8 (207-281) and Epilogue (283-292)	
4/29 & 5/1	<b>M:</b> Taiwan discussion <b>W:</b> Tibet discussion	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 11 (119-133); Doc. 28 (180-182); and <i>*Alan D. Romberg, "U.S. 'One China' Policy: Time for a Change?"</i> <b>W:</b> <i>*Goldstein, "Tibet &amp; China in 20th Century"</i> ; and Benson, Docs. 2-3 (146-148) and Doc. 5 (149-151)	
5/6	<b>M:</b> course evals and wrap-up	<b>M:</b> Benson, Ch. 12 (135-142); work on take-home final	
5/8-5/15 exams	<b>TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM due in my dept. mailbox @ 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Fri. 5/10/2019.</b> <b><u>No late work will be accepted for the final exam.</u></b>		