

HIST 354 (DL1): History of Modern China

Professor Michael Chang

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Virtual office hrs on Zoom: Th 9-10 am EST & by appt

Course time and location:

online (Blackboard); synchronous meetings on Zoom

10:30-11:45 am EST on Wednesdays

Course Description: This course is a survey of modern Chinese history focusing primarily on the nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries (1800-1950). The course will explore the momentous changes in the relationship between state and society from the decline and eventual collapse of the Qing dynasty to the earliest years of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949-1950. Themes to be explored include imperialism, nationalism, modernization, and various revolutions (political, social, and cultural) during this century and a half of Chinese history.

Learning Objectives: After completing this course, you will be able to:

- recognize the key figures and events as well as major trends and developments in China's modern history;
- discuss and debate the impact of imperialism, nationalism, and modernization as well as of political, social, and cultural revolutions;
- relate China's modern history to broader developments in global history;
- compare and explain the divergent and often conflicting views of a range of historical actors;
- identify and critically evaluate the main analytical points and arguments presented in academic texts; and
- demonstrate effective communication skills through synchronous (live) discussions and written assignments.

Required Texts:

1. Jonathan D. Spence. *The Search for Modern China*. 3rd edition. Norton, 2013.
2. *Henrietta Harrison. *The Man Awakened from Dreams: One Man's Life in a North China Village, 1857-1942*. Stanford, 2005.
3. *Wang Zheng. *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories*. U.C. Press, 1999.
4. *William Hinton. *Fanshen: Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*. U.C. Press, 1999 [1966]. [Wade-Giles]

Note: Titles above with a **single blue asterisk (*)** are accessible online through the University Libraries catalog. <http://library.gmu.edu/>

All titles listed above are also available for online purchase at the campus bookstore (Barnes & Noble).

Used copies of the required texts may also be found on <http://bookfinder.com>

Requirements & Grading: Students must demonstrate serious engagement with *every* requirement in order to pass the course. The instructor reserves the final right to determine what constitutes "serious engagement." **Note:** *Calculations of cumulative course grades that appear in Blackboard are not necessarily correctly "weighted" and thus do not accurately reflect one's overall standing in the course. If you would like to know your overall course grade at any point in the semester, please contact the instructor via e-mail.*

1. Participation (20%): You are expected to attend all synchronous meetings and to be fully prepared. This means finishing the assigned readings before class. The quality of your written and verbal contributions will be considered as indicators of your engagement and participation.

2. Online Discussions (30%): You are responsible for participating in **twelve (12) online discussions** during the semester. Detailed instructions may be found in the Module folders on the Blackboard course site. Each discussion will count as 3% of your overall course grade, and your grade for this component of the course will be based on your ten (10) highest online discussion grades. Detailed instructions and guidelines may be found on the Blackboard course site.

3. Papers (30%): You are required to complete **two (2) short (5-7 pg.) papers, due on Mon 10/12/2020 and Mon. 11/16/2020**. Each paper will count as 15% of your overall course grade. Detailed instructions available on Blackboard.

4. Final Exam (20%): essays submitted via Blackboard by **11:59 pm EST, Fri. 12/11/2020**. *No late work accepted.*

Grading Scale:

97-100	A+	77-79	C+	59 and below	F
94-96	A	73-76	C		
90-93	A-	70-72	C-		
87-89	B+	67-69	D+		
83-86	B	63-66	D		
80-82	B-	60-62	D-		

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module 0 (Mon. 8/17/2020 – Thu. 8/20/2020): Course Orientation

Read: “Start Here: Welcome” and “Syllabus” pages on Blackboard

Do: **Check** basic tech set-up, **activate** your Zoom Basic account, and **verify** access to required books

Module 1 (Fri. 8/21/2020 – Thu. 8/27/2020): Course Introduction

Read: “Module 1 Discussion Study Guide” and “China and Europe: What is ‘Modern?’” (Parts 1-3); Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 3-5 and 7-25 (Ch. 1)

Do: **Post** self-introduction **by 11:59 pm EST, Sun. 8/23/2020**;

Post to Module 1 Brainstorm **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 8/24/2020**

Participate in Module 1 Discussion

initial post (new thread) **by 11:59 pm EST, Tue. 8/25/2020**

peer response **by 11:59 pm EST, Thu. 8/27/2020**

Join: Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Mon. 8/24/2020

Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 8/26/2020

Module 2 (Fri. 8/28/2020 – Thu. 9/3/2020): China’s Late Imperial Socio-Political Order, 1600-1800

Read: “Module 2 Discussion Study Guide” and “China and Europe, 1500-1800” (Part 5)

Do: **Participate** in Module 2 Discussion

initial post (new thread) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 8/31/2020**

peer response **by 11:59 pm EST, Thu. 9/3/2020**

Join: Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 9/2/2020

Module 3 (Fri. 9/4/2020 – Thu. 9/10/2020): The First and Second Opium Wars, 1839-1860

Read: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 138-142 and 143-163 (Ch. 7)

primary documents 7.1 and 7.2 for opium debate

Watch: “First Opium War—The Righteous Minister—Extra History #2” (7 min.)

Do: **Collaborate** in small working group in order to prepare “opening arguments” for in-class debate (on Wed.)

Select 2 spokespeople and 2 scribes for the group and **notify (email) Dr. Chang** **by 11:59 pm EST, Sat. 9/5/2020**

Submit your group’s opening arguments (via Blackboard) **by Mon. 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 9/7/2020**

Join: Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 9/9/2020

Module 4 (Fri. 9/11/2020 – Thu. 9/17/2020): Rebellions and Reforms, 1850-1895

Read: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 164-185 (Ch. 8) and 186-207 (Ch. 9);

Schrag, “How to Read a History Book”

Reading Guide for *The Man Awakened* and Guidelines for Paper #1

Harrison, *The Man Awakened*, p. 1-8 (Preface), 168-170 (Epilogue), and 9-20 (Ch. 1)

Watch: “The Taiping Rebellion” (Rana Mitter, 7 min.) *Facing History and Ourselves*.

“China’s Tongzhi Restoration and Self-Strengthening Movement (1860-1895)” (13 min.), *House of History*

Do: **Participate** in Module 4 Discussion

initial post (new thread) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 9/14/2020**

peer response **by 11:59 pm EST, Thu. 9/17/2020**

Join: Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 9/16/2020

Module 5 (Fri. 9/18/2020 – Thu. 9/24/2020): Imperialism in Late Qing China, 1870-1900

Read: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 208-233 (Ch. 10)

Harrison, *The Man Awakened from Dreams*, p. 21-50 (Ch. 2) and 51-82 (Ch. 3)

Watch: “The Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)” (19 min.), *House of History*

Do: **Participate** in Module 5 Discussion

initial post (new thread) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 9/21/2020**

peer response **by 11:59 pm EST, Thu. 9/24/2020**

Join: Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 9/23/2020

Module 6 (Fri. 9/25/2020 – Thu. 10/1/2020): New Elites and New Policies, 1901-1911

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 234-254 (Ch. 11)
Harrison, *The Man Awakened from Dreams*, p. 83-112 (Ch. 4), 113-135 (Ch. 5), and 136-158 (Ch. 6)
- Watch:** “Chinese Reformers and Revolutionaries | Sun Yat-sen and Kang Youwei (14 min.), *House of History*
- Do:** **Collaborate** in small working group in order to prepare for Module 6 Discussion
Select 2 editors and 2 spokespeople for the group and **notify (email) Dr. Chang by 11:59 pm EST, Sat. 9/26/2020**
Participate in Module 6 Discussion
[Editor 1] **post** written group summary to the Module 6 Discussion forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 9/28/2020**
[Editor 2] **submit** written group summary as Word doc (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 9/28/2020**
[Everyone] **post individual peer response** to the Module 6 Discussion forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Tue. 9/29/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 9/30/2020](#)

Module 7 (Fri. 10/2/2020 – Thu. 10/8/2020): Revolution, Dictatorship, and Warlordism, 1912-1916

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 257-260 and 261-278 (Ch. 12)
Harrison, *The Man Awakened from Dreams*, p. 1-8 (Preface) and 159-170 (Epilogue)
- Watch:** “The Era of Modernization in China, Part 1: Fall of the Qing Dynasty” (13 min.), *Facing History and Ourselves*
- Do:** **Post “thesis statement”** for Paper #1 to the Module 7 Thesis Statement forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 10/5/2020**
Extra credit opportunity: Provide feedback to a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm EST, Wed 10/7/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 10/7/2020](#)

Module 8 (Fri. 10/9/2020 – Thu. 10/15/2020): New Culture and Mass Nationalism, 1915-1919

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 279-300 (Ch. 13)
- Watch:** “The Era of Modernization in China, Part 2: Evolution of a Nation” (12 min.)
- Do:** **Submit Paper #1** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 10/12/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 10/14/2020](#)

Module 9 (Fri. 10/16/2020 – Thu. 10/22/2020): Mass Revolutionary Parties, 1921-1925

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 301-326 (Ch. 14)
Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, p. 1-32 (Introduction) and 357-366 (Epilogue)
- Watch:** “The Chinese Civil War Explained, Part 1—Ten Year Civil War” (11 min.), *History of China*
- Do:** **Participate** in Module 9 Discussion
initial post (new thread) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 10/19/2020**
peer response **by 11:59 pm EST, Thu. 10/22/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 10/21/2020](#)

Module 10 (Fri. 10/23/2020 – Thu. 10/29/2020): Nationalist Revolution and the Nanjing Decade, 1926-1936

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 327-355 (Ch. 15)
Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, p. 35-66 (Ch. 1) and 119-143 (Ch. 3)
- Listen:** “Intro to Chiang Kai-shek [Jiang Jieshi] and the Kuomintang [KMT, or Guomindang/GMD]” (2 min.), *Hist. Assoc.*
- Watch:** “President of China—Chiang Kai-shek—1929” (3 min.), *British Movietone News*
“The Chinese Civil War Explained, Part 2—Mao Zedong’s Rise to Power” (13 min.), *History of China*
- Do:** **Post** to Module 10 Discussion **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 10/26/2020**
Extra credit opportunity: Respond to a classmate’s initial post **by 11:59 pm EST, Wed. 10/28/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am, Wed. 10/28/2020](#)

Module 11 (Fri. 10/30/2020 – Thu. 11/5/2020): Rural Revolution and Communist Survival, 1927-1937

- Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 356-387 (Ch. 16)
Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, p. 145-220 (Ch. 4-5) and 287-356 (Ch. 8)
- Do:** **Collaborate** in small working group in order to prepare for Module 11 Discussion
Select 2 editors and 2 spokespeople for the group and **notify (email) Dr. Chang by 11:59 pm EST, Sat. 10/31/2020**
Participate in Module 6 Discussion
[Editor 1] **post** group’s answers to the Module 11 Discussion forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 11/2/2020**
[Editor 2] **submit** group’s answers as Word doc **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 11/2/2020**
[Everyone] **post individual comments** to the Module 11 Discussion forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Tue. 11/3/2020**
- Join:** [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 11/4/2020](#)

Module 12 (Fri. 11/6/2020 – Thu. 11/12/2020): World War 2 and National Salvation, 1937-1945

Read: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 391-395 and 397-432 (Ch. 17)

Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, p. 1-32 (Introduction) and 357-366 (Epilogue).

Watch: “Report from China—Mission to China” (9 min.), *British Movietone News*, c. January 1943
China in Revolution, Part 1: Battle for Survival, 1911-1936 (56 min.)

Do: **Post “thesis statement”** for Paper #2 to the Module 12 Thesis Statement forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 11/9/2020**

Extra credit opportunity: Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm EST, Wed. 11/11/2020**

Join: [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 11/11/2020](#)

Module 13 (Fri. 11/13/2020 – Thu. 11/19/2020): Civil War Resumes, 1945-1949

Read: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, p. 433-459 (Ch. 18)

Hinton, *Fanshen*, p. ix-xiii (Preface), 3-14 (Prologue), and 15-68 (Ch. 1-5) [69]

Listen: “What Impact Did the Second World War Have on China?” (Jim Hoare, 4 min.), *Historical Association*

Watch: “Founding of the People’s Republic of China—Chinese Civil War Documentary Part 3” (18 min.), *History of China*

Do: **Submit Paper #2** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 11/16/2020**

Join: [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 11/18/2020](#)

Module 14 (Fri. 11/20/2020 – Thu. 11/26/2020): Communist Victory, 1947-1950

Read: Hinton, *Fanshen*, p. 69-100 (Ch. 6-9, anti-Japanese resistance); 101-146 (Ch. 10-14, initial village struggle); 157-160 (Ch. 16, women); 168-187 (Ch. 18-19, CP); and 198-250 (Ch. 21-26, land reform errors) [153]

Guidelines for Final Exam

Watch: *China in Revolution, Part 2: Fighting for the Future, 1936-1949* (55 min.) (start @55:38)

Do: **THANKSGIVING—no online discussion;** focus on reading assigned pages in *Fanshen*

Join: **THANKSGIVING—no Zoom meeting;** focus on reading assigned pages in *Fanshen*.

Module 15 (Fri. 11/27/2020 – Thu. 12/3/2020): Wrap-Up and Review

Read: Hinton, *Fanshen*, p. 318-331 (Ch. 35, the “gate”); 350-359 (Ch. 38, judging the party); 374-377, 382-387, and 394-395 (county meetings & land reform); 396-399 (Ch. 44); 454-460 (Ch. 51, women); 478-487 (Ch. 54, civil war); 518-527 (Ch. 58, “extreme democracy”); 535-547 (Ch. 60, People’s Congress); 592 (landholding chart); and 601-613 (Ch. 67, conclusion). [92]

Do: **Post “thesis statement”** for Final Exam to the Module 15 Thesis Statement forum **by 11:59 pm EST, Mon. 11/30/2020**

Extra credit opportunity: Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm EST, Wed 12/2/2020**

Join: [Zoom meeting at 10:30 am EST, Wed. 12/2/2020](#)

Exam Period (Wed. 12/9/2020 – Wed. 12/16/2020)

Do: **Submit your Final Exam** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm EST, Fri. 12/11/2020**

No late work accepted for this assignment.