

# HIST 354 (001): History of Modern China

**Professor Michael Chang**

Horizon Hall 3151

Office hrs: MW 10:15–11 am; by appt on Zoom

**Course time and location:**

9:00-10:15 am ET on Mondays and Wednesdays

Innovation Hall 134

**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 the various facets of revolution (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 in-class discussion and written assignments.

## Required Texts:

1. Jonathan D. Spence. *The Search for Modern China*. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

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**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 (24%):** Students 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 Assignments (21%):** You are responsible for completing **nine (9) online assignments**. Details may be found in the weekly folders on the Blackboard site. Your grade for this component of the course will be based on your seven (7) highest grades (i.e., your two lowest grades will be dropped) for the online assignments. Each online assignment will count as 3% of your overall course grade.

**3. Papers (30%):** You are required to complete **two (2) short (5-7 pg.) papers, due on Mon. 10/9/2023 and Mon. 11/13/2023**. Each paper will count as 15% of your overall course grade. Detailed instructions available on Blackboard.

**4. Final Exam (25%):** essays submitted via Blackboard by **11:59 pm ET, Thu. 12/7/2023**. *No late work accepted.*

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## Grading Scale:

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

## Course Policies, Reminders, and Helpful Tips

**a) Basic technology requirements:** This is face-to-face course. However, asynchronous work will take place primarily on Blackboard, while live (in-person) classes will meet twice weekly on MW (and, if necessary, on the Zoom platform). For more details please see “What Technologies Do I Need?” on the “Start Here: Welcome” page of the Blackboard course site.

**b) 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.

**c) 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.

**d) Submission of written work:** All written work is due at the time(s) and on the day(s) 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 numbered. You should 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.

**e) 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 copy is in the instructor’s hands. **No late work will be accepted for the final assignment.**

**f) 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!

**g) 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/>

**h) Recording and distribution of class materials:** Any audio or visual recording by students of class meetings, lectures, discussions or other class activities is allowed only under terms and conditions as approved by George Mason University’s Office of Disability Services (ODS). If you are entitled to audio or visual recording through ODS, please communicate with me before any recording occurs. The results of a recording may only be used for personal use, unless I authorize use by other students in the course. Recordings and course material may not be reproduced or exchanged or distributed. At the end of the semester, you are required to destroy any recordings made in this course.

**i) Electronic communication.** It is best to contact me at mchang5[at]gmu[dot]edu. I usually check email during normal business hours, namely M-F, 9 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>

**j) 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.

### **k) Administrative deadlines**

Last day to add classes: Mon. 8/28/2023

Last day to drop (w/no tuition penalty): Tue. 9/5/2023

**l) 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

### Week 00 (Thu. 8/17/2023 – Sat. 8/19/2023): Course Orientation

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

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

### Week 01 (Sun. 8/20/2023 – Sat. 8/26/2023): Course Introduction

**Read:** “Online Assignment 01 Study Guide” and “China and Europe: What is ‘Modern’?” (Parts 1-3)

**Do:** **Post** a self-introduction and responses to questions **by 11:59 pm ET, Mon. 8/21/2023**

**Online Assignment #1:** “China and Europe: What is ‘Modern’?” (Parts 1-3)

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #1” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 8/22/2023**

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 8/21/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 8/23/2023](#)

### Week 02 (Sun. 8/27/2023 – Sat. 9/2/2023): China’s Late Imperial Socio-Political Order, 1600-1800

**Read:** “Online Assignment 02 Study Guide” and “China and Europe, 1500-1800” (Part 5)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #2:** “China and Europe: What is ‘Modern’?” (Part 5)

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #2” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 8/28/2023**

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 8/28/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 8/30/2023](#)

### Week 03 (Sun. 9/3/2023 – Sat. 9/9/2023): The First and Second Opium Wars, 1839-1860

**Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Part II Intro (138-142) and Chapters 7-9 (143-207)

**Attend:** **LABOR DAY—NO CLASS on Mon. 9/4/2023**

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 9/6/2023](#)

### Week 04 (Sun. 9/10/2023 – Sat. 9/16/2023): Rebellions and Reforms, 1850-1895

**Read:** Schrag, “How to Read a History Book”

Reading Guide for *The Man Awakened from Dreams*

Guidelines for Paper 1

Harrison, *The Man Awakened*, Preface (1-8), Epilogue (only 168-170), and Chapter 1 (9-20)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #3:** identifying the main themes in *The Man Awakened from Dreams*

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #3” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 9/10/2023**

**Reply to at least one classmate’s initial post by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 9/12/2023**

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 9/11/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 9/13/2023](#)

### Week 05 (Sun. 9/17/2023 – Sat. 9/23/2023): Imperialism in Late Qing China, 1870-1900

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

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

**Do:** **Online Assignment #4:** tracking the main themes in *The Man Awakened from Dreams*

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #4” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 9/17/2023**

**Extra credit opportunity:** Reply to a classmate’s initial post **by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 9/19/2023**

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 9/18/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 9/20/2023](#)

### Week 06 (Sun. 9/24/2023 – Sat. 9/30/2023): New Elites and New Policies, 1901-1911

**Read:** Harrison, *The Man Awakened from Dreams*, Ch. 4 (83-112), Ch. 5 (113-135), and Ch. 6 (136-158)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Ch. 11 (234-254)

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 9/25/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 9/27/2023](#)

### Week 07 (Sun. 10/1/2023– Sat. 10/7/2023): Revolution, Dictatorship, and Warlordism, 1912-1916

**Read:** Harrison, *The Man Awakened from Dreams*, Preface (1-8) and Epilogue (159-170)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Part III Intro (257-260) and Ch. 12 (261-278)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #5:** draft of thesis statement for Paper 01

**Post “draft thesis statement”** for Paper 01 **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 10/1/2023**

**Extra credit opportunity:** Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 10/3/2023**

**Attend:** [class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 10/2/2023](#)

[class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 10/4/2023](#)

**Week 08 (Sun. 10/8/2023 – Sat. 10/14/2023): New Culture and Mass Nationalism, 1915-1919**

**Read:** Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Ch. 13 (279-300)

**Do:** **Submit Paper 01** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Mon. 10/9/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Tue. 10/10/2023 [Mon 10/9 classes meet on Tue 10/10 due to Columbus Day]  
class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 10/11/2023

**Week 09 (Sun. 10/15/2023 – Sat. 10/21/2023): Mass Revolutionary Parties, 1921-1925**

**Read:** Reading Guide for *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*

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

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Ch. 14 (301-326)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #6:** identifying the main themes in *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #6” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 10/15/2023**

**Reply to at least one classmate’s initial post by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 10/17/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 10/16/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 10/18/2023

**Week 10 (Sun. 10/22/2023 – Sat. 10/28/2023): Nationalist Revolution and the Nanjing Decade, 1926-1936**

**Read:** Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, Ch. 1 (35-66) and Ch. 3 (119-143)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Ch. 15 (327-355)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #7:** tracking the main themes in *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*

**Post** responses for “Online Assignment #7” (on Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 10/22/2023**

**Extra credit opportunity:** Reply to a classmate’s initial post **by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 10/24/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 10/23/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 10/25/2023

**Week 11 (Sun. 10/29/2023 – Sat. 11/4/2023): Rural Revolution and Communist Survival, 1927-1937**

**Read:** Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, Ch. 4 (145-186), Ch. 5 (187-220), and Ch. 8 (287-356)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Ch. 16 (356-387)

**Watch:** *China in Revolution, Part 1: Battle for Survival, 1911-1936* (56 min.) (see Weekly Folder on Blackboard)

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 10/30/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 11/1/2023

**Week 12 (Sun. 11/5/2023 – Sat. 11/11/2023): World War 2 and National Salvation, 1937-1945**

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

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Part IV Intro (391-395) and Ch. 17 (397-432)

**Do:** **Online Assignment #8:** draft of thesis statement for Paper 02

**Post** “draft thesis statement” for Paper 02 **by 11:59 pm ET, Sun. 11/5/2023**

**Extra credit opportunity:** Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm ET, Tue. 11/7/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 11/6/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 11/8/2023

**Week 13 (Sun. 11/12/2023 – Sat. 11/18/2023): Civil War Resumes, 1945-1949**

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

Reading Guide for *Fanshen*

Guidelines for Final Exam

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

**Do:** **Submit Paper 02** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Mon. 11/13/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 11/13/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 11/15/2023

**Week 14 (Sun. 11/19/2023 – Sat. 11/25/2023): Communist Victory, 1947-1950**

**Read:** Hinton, *Fanshen*, Ch. 6-9 (69-100, anti-Japanese resistance); Ch. 10-14 (101-146, initial village struggle);

Ch. 16 (157-160, women); Ch. 18-19 (168-187, Communist Party); and Ch. 21-26 (198-250, land reform errors)

**Guidelines for Final Exam**

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

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 11/20/2023

**THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS on Wed. 11/22/2023; focus on reading assigned pages in *Fanshen***

**Week 15 (Sun. 11/26/2023 – Sat. 12/2/2023): Wrap-Up and Review**

**Read:** Hinton, *Fanshen*, Ch. 35 (318-331, the “gate”); Ch. 38 (350-359, judging the party); Ch. 41-42 (374-377, 382-387, and 394-395, county meetings & land reform); Ch. 44 (396-399); Ch. 51 (454-460, women); Ch. 54 (478-487, civil war); Ch. 58 (518-527, “extreme democracy”); Ch. 60 (535-547, People’s Congress); table on p. 592 (landholding chart); and Ch. 67 (601-613, conclusion).

**Do:** **Online Assignment #9:** draft of thesis statement for Final Exam (Part A)

**Post “thesis statement”** for Final Exam (Part A) **by 11:59 pm ET, Wed. 11/29/2023**

**Extra credit opportunity:** Provide feedback on a classmate’s thesis statement **by 11:59 pm ET, Thu. 11/30/2023**

**Attend:** class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Mon. 11/27/2023

class meeting at 9:00 am ET, Wed. 11/29/2023

**Exam Period (Wed. 12/6/2023 – Wed. 12/13/2023)**

**Do:** **Submit Final Exam** (via Blackboard) **by 11:59 pm ET, Thu. 12/7/2023.** *No late work accepted final exam.*