

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

Voyage: Spring 2016
Discipline: History of East Asia
HIEA 3559-101: History of Modern China
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: Edward Rhoads
Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, conducted in a lecture-and-discussion format, covers the history of China during the last 250 years. Normally, we would first look at China as it existed in the mid-18th century, when it was at its height of affluence and power; we would then trace the country's slow and agonizing disintegration due to successive domestic upheavals and foreign defeats in the 19th century as well as its rapid regeneration by the middle of the 20th century; finally, we would examine China in the last half of the 20th and the first years of the 21st century under the rule of the Communists. The itinerary of our voyage, however, suggests taking another approach. We will prepare you for your visit to China by starting instead at the end and looking first at the Communist era of Chinese history before we go back to the beginning. And in lieu of a textbook, we will examine the history of China through three biographies: that of Empress Dowager Cixi of the Qing dynasty (1835-1907), the Guomindang leader Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975), and the Communist leader Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997).

One additional theme in the history of modern China is the geographical spread of the Chinese people overseas, which we will also consider as we make our way to the various port cities of Asia and Africa.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To grasp the how's and why's of the flow of modern Chinese history. What were the major events? Who were the major figures?

To understand how historians conceptualize history in terms of "turning points" and "periods."

To evaluate the role of "great men" (women, too) in history, with specific reference to Cixi, Chiang Kai-shek, and Deng Xiaoping.

To appreciate and understand the nearly world-wide presence of Chinese people.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Author: Ezra F. VOGEL
Title: *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*
Publisher: Harvard University Press
ISBN: 978-0-674-72586-7
Date/Edition: 2013/Paperback

Author: Jung CHANG
Title: *Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine who Launched Modern China*
Publisher: Anchor Books
ISBN: 978-0-307-45670-0
Date/Edition: 2014/Paperback

Author: Jay TAYLOR
Title: *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China*
Publisher: Harvard University Press
ISBN: 978-0-674-06049-4
Date/Edition: 2011/Paperback

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

- 1 Introduction
Brief in class writing assignment
 - 2 Liberation: The Communists' Rise to Power
Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 15-79
 - 3 The New Democracy
Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 88-109, 140-183
QUIZ #1
- Honolulu (12 January)
- 4 Socialist Transformation
Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 184-200, 229-257, 261-276
 - 5 Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 296-312, 362-283, 394-422
 - 6 Reform and Opening Out
Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 435-449, 473-522
 - 7 Tiananmen and its Aftermath

Readings: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 523-535, 576-639
Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 332-340 (on Japan)

Yokohama/Kobe (24-28 January)

8 The Chinese Dream

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 640-690

Shanghai/Hong Kong (31 January-5 February)

FIELD LAB – Hong Kong

9 Manchu Rule

Readings: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 1-4

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 228-233 (on Vietnam)

Ho Chi Minh City (8-12 February)

10 Gentry Society

Reading: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 5-9

QUIZ #2

11 The “Opening” of China

Readings: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 10-14

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 140-143 (on Burma)

Rangoon (17-21 February)

12 Taiping and Other Rebellions

Readings: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 15-18

13 Restoration and Self-Strengthening

Readings: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 19-23

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 344-346 (on India)

Cochin (26 February-2 March)

14 The Scramble for Concessions

Reading: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 24-28

15 The Late Qing New Policies

Readings: Chang, *Cixi*, chaps. 29-31 and Epilogue

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 351-355 (on Mauritius)

Mauritius (8 March)

- 16 The 1911 Revolution
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 1-68
- 17 May Fourth New Culture Movement
Readings: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 68-125
Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 360-363 (on South Africa)
- Cape Town (14-19 March)
- 18 The Great Revolution
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 125-181
- 19 Nanjing Decade
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 181-244
QUIZ #3
- 20 Mao and the Chinese Communists
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 245-306
- Tema/Takoradi (26-30 March)
- 21 Anti-Japan War of Resistance
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 306-365
- 22 Post-war Civil War
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 365-427
- 23 Taiwan
Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 427-483
- Casablanca (6-10 April)
- 24 FINAL EXAMINATION

FIELD LAB

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course.

The Field Lab for this course will take place in Hong Kong on Friday, 5 February. With the expert guidance of Professor POON Shuk-wah of the History Department of Lingnan University in Hong Kong, we will go on a day-long tour of various historical sites in this Special Administrative Region, as the former British colony is now designated.

Based on what you learn from this field lab and more generally from the course, you will write a 6-8 page (1500-2000 word) paper on the topic, "Hong Kong's place in the history of modern China."

This paper, which counts for 20% of your course grade, will be due after we leave Ghana.

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

“Chinese are to be found almost everywhere in the world.” To what extent is this statement accurate, based on your personal observations on this voyage? For each city or country that we visit (aside from China itself), see if there is a local Chinatown. If there is one, please visit it, take a photograph of yourself against an appropriate “Chinese” background, and write a one-page report of your visit. Possible questions to consider for each port: Where is this Chinatown located, in relation (for example) to the central business district? Has this Chinatown been around for a long time, or is it a recent development? How extensive, or how large, is this Chinatown? What do the Chinese living in this Chinatown do for a living?

This cumulative report, which counts for 20% of your course grade, is due after we leave Cape Town.

METHODS OF EVALUATION/GRADING RUBRIC

The course grade will be assigned as follows:

- Three 20-minute quizzes (each 10%) 30%
- Field Assignments 20%
- Field Lab Report 20%
- Final Examination 30%

Class participation: Grades may be adjusted upward or downward reflecting frequency and quality of participation in classroom discussions.

RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

Author: Lynn PAN
Title: *Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas*
Publisher: Harvard University Press
ISBN: 0-674-25210-1
Date/Edition: 1999/Hardcover

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”