

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-18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as its rapid regeneration by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; finally, we would examine China in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the first years of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (1835-1908) of the Qing dynasty, the Nationalist 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 dispersion of the Chinese people overseas, which we will take note of as we make our way to the various port cities of Asia and Africa.

t

**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

Depart Ensenada: 5 January

**B1- 8 January:** Introduction

Brief in class writing assignment

**B2- 10 January:** Liberation: The Communists' Rise to Power

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 15-79

Honolulu: 12 January

**B3- 13 January:** The New Democracy

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 88-109, 140-183

### QUIZ #1

**B4- 15 January:** Socialist Transformation

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 184-200, 229-257, 261-276

**B5- 18 January:** Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 296-312, 362-283, 394-422

Study Day: 19 January

**B6- 21 January:** Reform and Opening Out

Reading: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 435-449, 473-522

**B7- 23 January:** Tiananmen and its Aftermath

Readings: Vogel, *Deng*, pp. 523-535, 576-639

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 332-340 (on Japan)

Yokohama: 24-25 January

In-Transit: 26 January

Kobe: 27-28 January

**B8- 30 January:** The Chinese Dream

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

Shanghai: 31 January-1 February

In-Transit: 2-3 February

Hong Kong: 4-5 February

**FIELD LAB: 5 February**

**B9- 7 February:** Manchu Rule

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

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

Ho Chi Minh City: 8-12 February

**B10- 14 February:** Gentry Society

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

**QUIZ #2**

Study Day: 15 February

**B11- 17 February:** The “Opening” of China

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

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

Yangon: 18-22 February

**B12- 24 February:** Taiping and Other Rebellions

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

**B13- 26 February:** Restoration and Self-Strengthening

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

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

Cochin: 27 February-3 March

**B14- 5 March:** The Scramble for Concessions

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

Study Day: 6 March

**B15- 8 March:** The Late Qing New Policies

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

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

Port Louis: 9 March

**B16- 11 March:** The 1911 Revolution

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 1-68

Study Day: 12 March

**B17- 14 March:** May Fourth New Culture Movement

Readings: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 68-125

Pan, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 360-363 (on South Africa)

Cape Town: 15-20 March

**B18- 22 March:** The Great Revolution

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 125-181

**B19- 24 March:** Nanjing Decade

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 181-244

**QUIZ #3**

**B20- 26 March:** Mao and the Chinese Communists

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 245-306

Takoradi: 27-28 March

Tema: 29-31 March

**B21- 2 April:** Anti-Japan War of Resistance

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 306-365

**B22- 4 April:** Post-war Civil War

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 365-427

**B23- 6 April:** Taiwan

Reading: Taylor, *Chiang*, pp. 427-483

Casablanca: 7-11 April

Study Day: 12 April

## **B24- 14 April: FINAL EXAMINATION**

16 April: Disembark

### **FIELD WORK**

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab led by your instructor and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

### **FIELD LAB**

Field Lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester-at-Sea-sponsored trip on the day of your Field Lab.

The Field Lab for this course takes 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 two very different historical districts – Ping Shan in the New Territories and Sheung Wan on Hong Kong Island – 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, please write a 6-8 page (1500-2000 word) paper on the history of Hong Kong and its relationship, past and present, to the rest of China.

This paper, which counts for 20% of your course grade, will be due after we leave Ghana. It will be evaluated on what you say and how you say it.

### **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 port city (outside of China) that we visit, 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 paragraph-length report of your visit. Possible questions to consider for each port: Where is this Chinatown located, in relation (for example) to where our ship docks? 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?

The report for each port city (beginning with Yokohama) is due the second class period after we visit the port. Cumulatively, the reports will count for 20% of your course grade. As with the Field Lab report, they will be evaluated on the basis of their content as well as their organization and the quality of the writing.

### **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%

Please note that attendance and participation are required on Semester at Sea. Absences are only excused when accompanied by a note from the clinic. 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]."