

History 354

Section H A

Modern Chinese History



Instructor: Dr. Anthony J. Miller

Term: Spring 2020

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Class Meeting Days: TR

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Class Meeting Hours: 1:15-2:35 PM

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10-12

Class Location: 026 Irvin Hall

Or by appointment

### I. Course Description

1. Modern Chinese History explores the dramatic events China experienced in its journey from the time of the Late Ming Dynasty to the present. Through examining primary sources and popular literature, the course will pay close attention to how diverse Chinese groups lived in various periods and wrestled with forces such as modernity. The course also looks at key historical debates concerning imperial China's decline, the impact of western culture and imperialism, nation-building, domestic rebellions and civil war, and communism. Chronologically the course

is divided into three periods: Dynastic China (the Late Ming and Qing Empires, 1600-1911), the Republican Period (1911-1949), and the People's Republic (1949-Present).

## 2. Miami Plan Course Competencies

1. HST 34 follows the Miami Global Plan for **written communication** by asking students in the classroom and their assignments to "think on paper." During class, the professor's questions regarding the text or lecture will guide students toward developing and expressing their ideas cogently and according to appropriate academic conventions. Assignments such as the essay exams, online discussions, and historiographical essay will further ask students to demonstrate skillful use of credible and relevant sources.
2. The course will also have the students practice and enhance their **critical thinking**. Class discussion will ask students to analyze their own beliefs and ideas in dialogue with different viewpoints found amongst their immediate peers as well as perspectives displayed by groups and societies from the past. But most importantly all the course assignments will ask students to practice the foundations of a critical engagement with the past: questioning the viewpoint of experts and received knowledge, evaluating the influence of historical context and constraints on states and peoples, and taking a specific position key issues from world history based on reasoning and evidence.
3. HST 354 also provides students the opportunity to take a systematic approach to exploring issues of global importance by developing their use of **inquiry and analysis**. In projects such as the historiographical essay, students will study a key area of debate to study how scholars have used various methodologies and sources to investigate the past. Further, students will use one or more primary sources to compare how their analysis fits into a larger scholarly conversation.
4. Through attending the Chinese New Year Festival and events at Miami University's Confucius Institute each student will also use **experiential learning** to engage the subject of Modern Chinese History outside of the traditional classroom environment. By acting as a participant and observer in events exhibiting China's cultural heritage, each student can learn how to apply their academic knowledge in new settings and use these experiences to gain greater depth in their **intercultural knowledge**.

## 3. Key Themes and Organizing Principles

1. Life and Society in Dynastic China
2. State-Building and Revolutionary Ideologies
3. Literature, Intelligentsia, and Modern Society
4. Women, Labor, and Cultural Heritage
5. Foreign Relations and Economic Development

## 4. Credit Hours

1. 3 Credit Hours

## 5. Required Texts and Materials

1. Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2012
2. Selections from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, edited by Patricia Ebrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1993
3. Hualing Nieh Engle, *Three Lives of China*, (1991):  
[https://iwp.uiowa.edu/sites/iwp/files/ThreeLives\\_extracts.pdf](https://iwp.uiowa.edu/sites/iwp/files/ThreeLives_extracts.pdf)

## 6. Supplementary Texts and Materials

1. John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, 1998
2. Odd Arne Westad, *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750*, 2012

## 7. Basis for Final Grade

1. Participation, Attendance, and Class Discussion (100 Points)
2. Midterm and Final Exam (100 Points Each)
3. Reading Quizzes (100 Points)
4. Book Review and Historiographical Essay (100 Points)

## 8. Grading Scale

Points Per		Semester Hour
Grade		
A+		4.00
A	Excellent	4.00
A-		3.70
B+		3.30
B	Good	3.00
B-		2.70
C+		2.30
C	Satisfactory	2.00
C-		1.70
D+		1.30
D	Poor	1.00
D-		0.70
F	Failure	0.00

## 9. Course Policies

1. Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Professionalism

- a. Academic integrity is expected of all students at Miami. Any suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be handled under Miami University's Academic Integrity policy found in Part I, Chapter 5 of the *Student Handbook* (<http://blogs.miamioh.edu/miamipolicies/?p=1994>). It is a student's responsibility to read this policy. Please note that lack of knowledge or understanding of the appropriate academic conduct is not an excuse for committing academic dishonesty.
  - b. The following acts of academic dishonesty are particularly pertinent to this class:
    1. Using the ideas, words, or structure/sequence of another person or source without accurate and appropriate citation and attribution (including the appropriate use of quotation marks)
    2. Presenting false or invented information in any academic assignment
    3. Utilizing another person to complete any portion of an academic in place of one's self
    4. Looking at or using information from another student's work during an exam
  - c. Students who are responsible for committing academic dishonesty will receive a sanction that ranges from a zero on the assignment to an F in the course, which could include the AD transcript notation. **Students who commit two acts of dishonesty (in or out of the classroom) automatically will be suspended from Miami.** If you have questions about how to complete an assignment or what constitutes academic dishonesty for a particular assignment, please ask.
2. Late Work Policy
    - a. Late work will only be accepted in this class when students can provide documented proof of an emergency or extenuating circumstances.
  3. Incomplete Grades
    - a. The University's policy on Incomplete grades can be found here:  
[http://www.miamioh.edu/documents\\_and\\_policies/bulletin06/grades/index.html](http://www.miamioh.edu/documents_and_policies/bulletin06/grades/index.html)
  4. Rewrite Policy
    - a. Students may ask to rewrite papers, but the option depends on the decision of the instructor. An extra credit assignment worth five points will be made available only once.
  5. Essay Feedback and Comments
    - a. The professor will provide a rubric for the exams, discussion responses, and primary source paper. The instructor's comments will be typed and returned to the student in a timely fashion.
  6. Online Discussions
    - a. Each week students will be responsible for reading the assigned material and post online two questions they have from the reading in the Cyber Cafe. In addition, each student must post a short reading response (two to three paragraphs) to a question posed by the professor in the section entitled "Week X Discussion" on four separate occasions throughout the semester.
    - b. Discussion consists of thoughtful answers and analytical questions pertaining to class readings and assignments that are informed by a sense of historical change and continuity. Answers must use reference to class materials, concepts, and historical evidence to advance an idea about the past or its relationship to contemporary events.
    - c. Dialogue and debate with others demonstrates respect for a diversity of viewpoints of others by considering gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and political and religious

- beliefs. Must demonstrate evidence of engagement with course themes and ownership in class through the practices of active learning. Each class period students must come to class with questions prepared from the assigned readings, and attempt to answer questions posed by their classmates.
- d. Each week discussion is worth 10 points, and will be graded according to a rubric labeled "Assignment and Discussion Rubric" provided online. In addition, in class quizzes and short writing assignments will also be used to evaluate the student's preparation, comprehension, and analytical skills and development.
7. Technology, Media, and Disability Access
    - a. This course will make great use of the online classroom and other web materials. Instructions will be handed out and reviewed on the first day of class.
    - b. Students with disabilities are encouraged to request reasonable accommodation. Student Disability Services (SDS) registration should be completed prior to the provision of accommodations. Please contact SDS at 513-785-3211 or visit [miamioh.edu/sds](http://miamioh.edu/sds) for information on services. Students that have completed the registration process are encouraged to have a brief one-on-one meeting at the beginning of the semester to discuss accommodation plans for the course.
  8. Attendance and Participation
    - a. Class attendance is critical to the course and your success as a learner. History is a matter of reading, debating, and writing. Class lectures and discussion are a chance to demonstrate your intellectual interests and knowledge... don't miss this opportunity. Excused absences are given only after documentation and proof of the circumstances necessitating absence have been verified. Don't miss class! Don't just be in class, be active and show ownership. Ask questions, debate with fellow students, and be prepared to discuss what you were assigned to read. According to the policies of this university, the only excused absences will be those taken as a matter of religious observance. Please notify the instructor of any religious holidays that will cause you to miss class during the first week of the semester.
  9. Electronic Devices During Class
    - a. Unless permitted by an accommodation letter from Student Accessibility Services, no student will be allowed to use electronic devices, particularly smart phones or computers, during class except in the case of emergencies. When such need arises, the student should notify the instructor prior to class of the need for such devices and detail the nature of the emergency that necessitate their use. The penalty for using such devices in class will be that the student will be considered absent for that day's class and will not receive attendance or participation points or be allowed to complete any assignments done in class. This includes exams, presentations, and/or quizzes.

### Weekly Schedule

#### 10. Week 1 January 27-31

- a. Monday- Introduction to the Course and Dynastic Maps
- b. Wednesday- A Brief History of Chinese Dynastic History and Foreign Relations

1. Readings: Select any 2 of the following primary source documents from the Ming Dynasty: "Proclamations of the Hongwu Emperor," "Village Ordinances," "What the Weaver Said," "Family Instructions," "Two Philosophers: Wang Yangming and Li Zhi," "Commercial Activities," "Concubines," and "Widows Loyal Unto Death," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second Edition/
11. Week 2 Feb. 3-7
    - a. Monday-Family and Life in the Late Ming: Glory, Corruption, and Collapse
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 1-The Late Ming," and "A Censor Accuses a Eunuch" from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second Edition
    - b. Wednesday-No Class, Meet for Lunar New Year Gala on February 8<sup>th</sup>: Dinner, Reception, and Performances from 6-9 PM
  12. Week 3 Feb. 10-14
    - a. Monday- Manchu to Qing: Conquest and Transformation of the Ruling Class
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 2-The Manchu Conquest" and "The Yangzhou Massacre," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second Edition
    - b. Wednesday- Apex of the Qing Empire: Kangxi to Qianlong
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 3-Kangxi's Consolidation," "Chapter 4-Yongzheng's Authority," and "Chapter 5-Chinese Society and the Reign of Qianlong,"
  13. Week 4 Feb. 17-21
    - a. Monday: **Opium War Simulation**
      1. Readings: Primary Sources-Qianlong's Letter to George III, 1793; Commissioner Lin's Letter to Queen Victoria, 1838; Letter from Lord Palmerston, 1841; A Debate Between Merchants: British and American Merchants Debate the Morality of the Opium Trade, 1840s and 1850s; Treaties of Nanjing and Tianjin, 1842 and 1860;
      2. Secondary Source: Spence, "Chapter 6-China and the Eighteenth Century World," and "Chapter 7-The First Clash with the West,"
    - b. Wednesday: Taiping Rebellion
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 8-The Crisis Within," and "Placards Posted in Guangzhou," "Mid-Century Rebels," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second Edition
  14. Week 5 Feb. 24-28
    - a. Monday- Ling Qichao and the Self-Strengthening Movement
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 9-Restoration through Reform," and "Liang Qichao on His Trip to America," "Ridding China of Bad Customs," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second Edition
    - b. Wednesday-A Decade of Revolution: 1911 to 1919
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 10-New Tensions in the Late Qing" and "Chapter 11: The End of the Dynasty,"
  15. Week 6 March 2-6
    - a. Monday: Nationalism and Republican China: Sun Yatsen to Chiang Kai-shek
      1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 12-The New Republic," and "Chapter 13-A Road is Made,"
    - b. Wednesday: Exam #1
  16. Week 7 March 9-13
    - a. Monday-Out of the Ashes: Mao Zedong and the Long March

1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 14-The Fracture Alliance" and "Chapter 15-The Guomindang in Power,"
  - b. Wednesday-China's War of Resistance, 1937-1945
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 16- Communist Survival," and Hualing Nieh Engle's *Three Lives: Part 1 (The Big River, China 1925-1949)*
17. Week 8 March 16-20
- a. Monday: Civil War and the Guomindang's Exile in Taiwan
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 17-World War II" and "Chapter 18-Fall of the Guomindang State," and Hualing Nieh Engle's *Three Lives: Part 2 (The Green Island, Taiwan 1949-1964)*
  - b. Wednesday: The Golden Age of the People's Republic of China, 1949-1957
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 19-The Birth of the People's Republic of China," and "Chapter 20-Planning the New Society,"
18. Week 9 March 23-27
- a. **Spring Break-No Classes**
  - b. **Watch the Film *To Live***
19. Week 10 March 30-April 3
- a. Monday: Hundred Flowers and the Great Leap Forward
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 21-Deepening the Revolution," and "Chapter 22-Cultural Revolution,"
  - b. Wednesday: The Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976
    1. Reading: "A New Young Man Arrives at the Organization Department," "Peng Dehuai's Critique of the Great Leap Forward," "Lei Feng, Chairman Mao's Good Fighter," and "Red Guards," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second
20. Week 11 April 6-10
- a. Monday: Death of the Great Helmsman and Open Doors: Deng Xiaoping and the Four Modernizations
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 23: Reopening the Doors," and "Chapter 24-Redefining the Revolution,"
  - b. Wednesday: Fang Lizhi and 1989: Astrophysics and Democracy at Tiananmen Square
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 25-Levels of Power," and "Chapter 26-Testing the Limits," and "Posters for Democracy," from *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey, Second
21. Week 12 April 13-17
- a. Monday: **Exam # 2**
  - b. Wednesday: Special Economic Zones, Little Dragons, and the China Miracle, 1990-2000
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 27-Century's End" and Hualing Nieh Engle's *Three Lives: Part 3 (The Deer Garden, Iowa 1964-1991)*
22. Week 13 April 20-24
- a. Monday: The Hu/Wen
    1. Reading: Spence, "Chapter 28-Breakthrough?"
  - b. Wednesday: Xi's Chinese Dream and the Belt and Road Initiative
    1. Selections from *The Diplomat, Economist, and The Atlantic*
23. Week 14 April 27-May 1
- a. Monday: Trade Wars and the Middle Income Trap
    1. Watch Film: *American Factory*, Netflix 2019
  - b. Wednesday: Xinjiang and Islam in 21- Century China
    1. Selections from *Human Rights Watch* and US Congressional Reports
24. Week 15 May 4-8
- a. Monday: Hong Kong: 1997 to Josh Wong and the Umbrella Movement

- 1. Selections from *NY Times* and *Chinafile*
  - b. Wednesday: Writer's Workshop
25. Week 16-May 11-15
- a. **Final Exam Weeks-Exam TBD**