Modern China
in Film, Theater, and Oral History

This course focuses on acquainting students with contemporary China in historical and trans-regional/national perspectives. Most of the class is devoted to a chronological and thematic overview of China in a larger global framework. This overview serves as a foundation for the understanding of contemporary issues in China—politics, economy, culture, and people. In this course, we will apply multi-media sources, including video (film, documentary, opera), visual (photo, cartoon), audio (opera and songs) and oral history from ordinary Chinese. In so doing, we will be able to obtain diverse perspectives of individuals, both ordinary and great, Chinese and non-Chinese, so that you will be familiar with a critical approach in history study as well as in the understanding of the world.

Requirements and Grading:

- Participation, 15%, based on your attendance and participation.
- A map quiz, 5%
- The midterm, 20%
- The final, 30%
- Two short papers, 10% and 20%

Paper assignment:

- Papers are due in class (see class schedule for due dates):
- Be sure to refer to the “General Instructions for Papers” which will be on the course website.
- (2) A five-page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point) on Tashi Tsering’s autobiography *The Struggle for Modern Tibet*, 20%. In the second paper, some improvements in your writing and analysis is expected.

Absences or late assignments will only be excused in the event of documented illness. Any work submitted for credit that includes the words or ideas of anyone else must fully and accurately identify your source in a complete citation. If you are confused about this, please read the UO plagiarism policy:

[http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/)

Reading Materials:


Video Materials (documentaries and films):
• Will Lyman; Sue Williams; Kathryn Dietz; Dun Tan, *China: A Century of Revolution*, 2007.
• *The Goddess*, 1934 and *The New Woman*, 1935.
• Mi Zhao, video clips on retired GMD officers, war orphan, and individual Chinese emigrants in “the Golden Triangle” on the borders of China, Thailand, and Myanmar, 2011.
• Li Zhun, *Li Shuangshuang*, 1962.
• Monte Markham; William Schlueter; Lee Fulkerson; Klaire Markham; Roger Mudd *Chinatown: Stranger in a Strange Land*, 2008.

In addition to the books listed above, a series of primary texts will be posted on the Blackboard. All readings are listed in the schedule of lectures below.

China Websites for your Browsing Interest:

http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm  maps and art
http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net Coverage of China by the Western media
http://www.danwei.org A Hong Kong website about media, advertising, and urban life in China. It contains frequent references to and translations from Chinese media in the PRC
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/ News from the Chinese government’s point of view
http://www.chinabloglist.org/ Links to weblogs on China

**Schedule of Readings and Lectures**

**June 23  Introduction, Overview of Language and Geography**

• Two significant moments in Chinese history
• The encounter of two world systems

June 24  The 19th Century—the External and Internal Challenges--The Opium Wars and the Rebellions

Film—The Opium War (section, in class)

June 25  Reform--Self-strengthening, Nationalism, the New Woman
Global Influence—from “Barbarians” to the “Westerners”

Map quiz (in class)
Documentary—The Youth (section, in class)

June 26  The 1911 Revolution and the 1919 May Fourth Movement & International Players

Documentary—China: A Century of Revolution (section, in class)

June 30  The 1920s—the Warlords and the Parties-the CCP & the GMD
Question—how was “class” formed?

July 1  The 1930s—the Nanjing Decade and the New Life Movement & the Global Environment & the Death of the New Woman?

Film—The Goddess, 1934, or The New Woman, 1935

July 2  WWII in China and Foreign “Enemies” in China

Film-- The Spring River Flows East, 1947. (section, in class)
July 3  The Civil War (1945-1949) & International Actors  
First Paper due in class

July 7  Mid-term exam

July 8  1949-1957--The Founding & the Development of the People's Republic of China & the Cold War

Video clips--on retired GMD officers, war orphan, and individual Chinese emigrants in “the Golden Triangle” between the PRC, Thailand, and Myanmar, 2011

Questions to consider
  o  Why could the CCP succeed? The political landscape in the world

July 9  The Anti-Rightist Campaign and the Great Leap Forward  
— the Making of the New Socialist Woman

Questions
  o  Rethinking about the GMD New Life Movement—the 1930s GMD and the 1950s CCP

Film-- Li Shuangshuang (section, in class)

July 10  The Culture Revolution & the World; Opera and History

Opera (Ballet)— The Red Detachment of Women, 1970.  

  o  The creation of new revolutionary women onstage—opera and history

•  Mi Zhao, oral history of Chinese performers on the Cultural Revolution (in class discussion)
July 14  The Late 1970s—Economic Reform & the Global Market

Second Paper Due in class

Documentary—24 City and China Blue (sections, in class)

July 15  Post-reform Problems & Global Responses
  o  Please bring your questions on this topic to class

Documentary—Small Happiness (section, in class)

July 16  Overseas Chinese and China’s Overseas Influence
  Documentary—Chinatown: Stranger in a Strange Land (section, in class)
  Questions
  o  Rethinking “China” in the world from the 14th century to the present

July 17  Final exam