

CRN 36248 (Spring 2017)  
240C McKenzie Hall  
Tu-Th 4-5:20pm

Professor Goodman ([bgoodman@uoregon.edu](mailto:bgoodman@uoregon.edu))  
Office: 331 McK  
Office hours: Mondays 3-5pm

*Graduate Teaching Fellows:*

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## History 191: China Past and Present

China has multiple pasts: imperial, republican, and revolutionary. China Past and Present introduces the epic sweep of China's modern transformations. Grasping these changes provides a key to the uneasy relationship between past and present in contemporary China. Since the end of the nineteenth century, Chinese rulers, intellectuals, reformers, and revolutionaries have attempted to modify, reject, even to eradicate elements of the Chinese past in order to construct a new and modern present. At the same time, they have sought to create a sense of specifically Chinese identity, and to redefine modernity in Chinese terms. The changing understandings of China's pasts and the meanings of Chinese ethnic and national identity in the present are the themes of this course.

HIST 191 is designed to acquaint you with the historical context for understanding contemporary China. It follows HIST 190, but there are no prerequisites.

**Section Discussions:** Section assignments give you an opportunity to focus on primary texts. Primary texts are the first-hand sources through which historians understand the past. Among these readings you will find political documents, news articles, and fiction from the past, as well as personal memoirs. Read these sources carefully and critically, taking into account the context in which they were written. Discussion focuses on learning to interpret these primary texts. There is also a required map quiz in section.

### **Course Objectives:**

- develop familiarity with transformations in China and Chinese culture, since late 19<sup>th</sup> c.
- understand changing Chinese definitions of “tradition” and what it means to be modern.
- build ability to think critically and analyze primary and secondary sources.
- learn to express ideas more clearly and confidently in discussion and writing.

### **Requirements and Grading:**

- Lecture attendance, section attendance, and all readings are required.* Material from lecture, section, and course readings will be on quizzes and exams.
- Quizzes and short in-class writing assignments. Most Tu-Th classes will have a short (5-min) reading quiz or short writing assignment. These assignments together count for 20% of your grade. If you are ill and send an explanatory e-mail to the instructor BEFORE lecture, you will be excused from that day's quiz/assignment (there is no makeup).

- You should attend the section you are enrolled in and participate actively in discussion. Section (map quiz, attendance, and participation) counts 20% of grade.
- There is a midterm and a final (March 18, 12:30 pm). Each counts 20% (40% total).
- Two short 2-page papers (due dates on schedule), on historical questions raised by the books by Yu Hua. Each counts 10% of your grade. Paper guidelines will be on Canvas. Make sure to follow the specified guidelines—do not write a general paper on the book.

**Readings** The following texts (listed in order of appearance) are at the bookstore:

- Harold M. Tanner, *China: A History*. Volume 2 (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2010)
- Primary source reading packet. Ask if you don't see it on the bookstore shelf!
- Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words*
- Yu Hua, *The Seventh Day*

**\*\*Avoiding distraction and enabling your classmates to focus:** Phones, computers and other electronic devices should be put away in class. Research shows students who use electronic devices in class become distracted and perform worse than those who do not:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/may/11/students-who-use-digital-devices-in-class-perform-worse-in-exams>

If you feel that you must use your computer to take notes, please be sure to sit in the back row of the class, so as not to distract others. Anyone surfing the web or texting in class will risk points deducted from grade (and should put the device away if requested).

**In Fairness:** Absences will only be excused for documented illness (in any event, contact me). All work you turn in *must be your own*. *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*. See UO definitions of academic misconduct:

<https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx> *Any plagiarism or cheating will result in a failed grade.*

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND LECTURES:**

With the exception of the first week, readings in Tanner should be completed by the Tuesday lecture. Other readings should be completed for your Friday section meeting.

### **Week 1: Orientations and Themes**

read: •Tanner, pp. 1-68; maps of China on pp. 25, 44, 64

*Note also readings for section (below)*

4/4 *China's Pasts and China's Present* (plus language and territory overview)

4/6 *The Late Imperial State, Foreign Aggression and Internal Turmoil*

**Section:** •Map exercise

- read and prepare to discuss short documents in packet (“Placards Posted in Guangzhou”; “The Taiping Plan for Reorganizing Chinese Society”)

## **Week 2: Imperialism and the Problem of Chinese Modernity**

read: •Tanner, pp. 72-123; *Note also readings for section (below)*

4/11 *The Decline of Imperial China*

4/13 *Revolution of 1911 and the Founding of a Republic: What is Revolution, and What Changed?*

**Section:** •Map quiz

•Read and plan to discuss “Liang Qichao on His Trip to America” AND “The Revolutionary Alliance Proclamation, 1907”; “Press Coverage” (1911) (in packet)

## **Week 3: Transforming Culture**

read: •Tanner, pp 123-137

•Chen Duxiu, “The Way of Confucius and Modern Life” (in packet)

4/18 *New Culture, the New Woman, and the New Man* (\*\*Be sure to read Chen Duxiu document for this class)

4/20 \*\*ATTEND LECTURE by Prof. Tim Cheek, noon Knight Browsing. \*\*sign in.

**Section:** • Lu Xun, “Diary of a Madman” (1918) (packet)  
• Mao Zedong, “Great Union of Popular Masses” (1919) (both in packet)

## **Week 4: Nationalism, Class and Violence**

Read: •Tanner, 137-165, \*\*prepare section readings by Thursday class.

4/25 *Marxism, Class and China*

4/27 Film: "China in Revolution," \*\*short writing exercise on section readings.

**Section:** •Mao Zedong, “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (March, 1927); •Chiang Kai-shek, “Nationalism and Traditionalism” (packet)

## **Week 5: Chiang Kai-shek’s Republic of China, Mao’s Rural Strategies, and War with Japan**

Read: •Tanner 165-192.

5/2 *The First United Front (GMD-CCP) and its Demise*

5/4 *Communist Victory and the Construction of a New State*

**Section:** • Hinton, *Fanshen* (viii-xiii, 128-141, 147-160) (packet)  
• Shen Congwen, “Staff Adviser” (1935) (packet)  
• Mao Dun, “Spring Silkworms” (1933) (packet)

## **Week 6: Defining the Socialist State**

Read: •Tanner 193-211.

5/9 \*\*MIDTERM (Covers Weeks 1-5: readings, lectures and sections)

Remember to bring green books to exam! (available at bookstore).

5/11 *Recovering Stability in the First Decade; Reforming Society*

**Section:** •Ding Ling, “Thoughts on March 8” (1942) (packet)  
•Mao Zedong, “On Art and Literature” (1942) and “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” (1949) (packet)

## **Week 7: Maoist Utopianism [look ahead to short paper #1 due in section]**

Read: \*Tanner 211-33, then \*\*VISIT JSMA POSTER EXHIBIT (by 5/17)

5/16 *Maoist Utopianism I: The Great Leap Forward*

5/18 *Maoist Utopianism II: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution*

Film: "The Mao Years", short writing on JSMA poster exhibit

- Section:**
- "Peng Dehuai's Critique of the Great Leap Forward" (1959)
  - "Decision of the Central Committee of the CCP in regard to the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution"
  - "Quotations from Chairman Mao"
  - Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words* (section on "Leader") pp. 15-35.

**\*\*TURN IN 2-page PAPER on Yu Hua reading [See guidelines on canvas]**

**Week 8: Post-Mao Reaction in the Reform Era and the Question of Democracy**

• Tanner 234-64.

5/23 *The Character of Reform: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics? Capitalism?*

5/25 Film: *China Blue*

- Section:
- Deng Xiaoping, "Emancipate the Mind"
  - Liu Binyan, "A Case of Persecution in Xi'an"
  - Mok Chiu Yu and Frank Harrison, 95-97; 107-119;
  - Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words* ("People;" "Revolution"), 1-14; 113-141.
  - "Deng Xiaoping's Talks in Shenzhen (1992)," in K. Schoppa, *Columbia Guide to Modern Chinese History*, 151-53.

**Week 9: Boundary Issues Past and Present: What is China? Who is Chinese?**

• Tanner, review sections on Tibet and Taiwan

• begin reading Yu Hua, *The Seventh Day*, for short paper #2, \*\*due in 6/5 class.

5/30 *National Minorities I: Tibet in Historical Perspective "Nowhere to Call Home"*

6/1 (The Republic of China on) Taiwan

Section: • Gray Tuttle, "China's Race Problem"

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2015-04-20/china-s-race-problem>

• Joyman Lee, "Islands of History" [on Canvas]

• Linda van der Horst, "The Evolution of Taiwanese Identity" (packet)

**Week 10 China, Democracy, and Global Capitalism**

Read: • Tanner 264-75; finish reading Yu Hua, *The Seventh Day*.

6/6 *Socialism, Capitalism, and Democracy*

\*2nd PAPER DUE bring to 6/6 class.

6/8 *Questions of Culture and Memory in the Present*

In-class self-evaluation and Review

Section: • Yu Hua, *The Seventh Day*

• Edward Wong, "Chinese Premier... Air Pollution." (packet)

• Schell, Orville. (2011, December). "How Wal-Mart Is Changing China," *The Atlantic*. Available: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/12/how-walmart-is-changingchina/308709>

**\*\*Turn in paper on *The Seventh Day* in section [see guidelines on Canvas]**

(Don't forget the final exam, 12:30pm on Wednesday, June 14. Exam locations are posted in the online Class Schedule by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of classes—click on CRN)