

HIS 275 China's Revolutions (FA21)
MWF 2:00-2:50 pm, N3110
Prof. W. Luo (luoweiwei@grinnell.edu)
Office hours M/F 3-4 pm, and by appointment (online)

China's Revolutions



This course explores how reformers and revolutionaries sought to transform Chinese culture, society, and government to become a part of the modern world. We will approach this transformation by focusing on the period between the nineteenth- and the twenty-first centuries, when the nation of China, and the identity of Chinese underwent dramatic changes. We will also compare the texts written by historical figures and contemporary Western scholars to sample the diverse perspectives of China as a place and as an idea.

Prerequisites: HIS-100 or second-year standing.

Required Books

a. Major textbooks:

Chen, Cheng, Lestz, and Spence. *The Search for Modern China, A Documentary Collection*. Third Edition. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013)

**This is the main collection of primary sources that will be used for class discussions and to help you acquire critical analytical skills.*

- b. Supplemental readings will be available as PDFs (marked by @)
- c. Films and documentaries (excerpts will be shown before and during classes)

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (30%): You are expected to attend class and participate actively throughout the semester. Lectures and discussions are essential to learning in this class. All readings are to be completed prior to the class period for which they have been assigned. You should come to class prepared to discuss them in detail, with questions and points for discussion prepared. Attendance (10%) will be taken at every meeting (after drop/add period). Participation (20%) includes taking part in discussions, completing assignments, and other learning activities associated with the class. Attendance will also affect participation grade.

Discussion Board (5%): On assigned dates you are responsible for posting discussion questions for the class. This will begin after Drop/Add period. ***For more information, see Assignment Sheet (under Assignment on PWeb).***

Guided Primary Source Analysis (20%): A total of 2 (2-3 page, double-spaced) analytical essays on a primary source (from the required textbook for this class) are due throughout the semester. In this short paper you will learn to dissect a document, engage in scholarly conversations, and make clear arguments using the information you have learned in the course. A detailed prompt will be given on how to complete this paper before each assignment date. ***For more information, see Assignment Sheet.***

Midterm Scaffolding Paper (15%): you will write a 3-4 page (double-spaced) paper around Fall Break to help review and process what you have learned in the first half of the semester, and prepare for the final paper. ***For more information, see Assignment Sheet (will be posted under Assignment on PWeb).***

Final Paper: Reforms and Revolutions (25%): This is a 6-7 page (double-spaced) historiographical essay that draw on the readings and discussions of this class. ***For more information, see Assignment Sheet.***

Grading Scale:

93-100%	A	83-86%	B	70-76%	C
90-92%	A-	80-82%	B-	60-69%	D
87-89%	B+	77-79%	C+	below 60%	F

Policies

Academic honesty:

In all assignments written for this course, you must abide by the College's rules on plagiarism. (http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537#Honesty_in_Academic_Work) Do not submit someone else's work as your own, quote from a source without citing it, or provide inappropriate help to a classmate on exams and assignments. If you paraphrase or quote any text from another you must indicate where the text comes from. Failure to comply with the requirement of academic honesty may result in receiving no credit for the assignment in question or even failing the course in cases of serious academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about any of the rules, please consult with me, or the professionals in the Writing Lab, *before* submitting your class materials and assignments.

Religious holidays:

Grinnell College offers alternative options to complete academic work for students who observe holy days. Please contact me within the first 2 weeks of the semester if you would like to discuss a specific instance that applies to you.

Inclusive classroom and student accessibility services:

I strive to create a fully inclusive classroom. Thus I welcome individual students to approach me about distinctive learning needs. In particular, I encourage students with disabilities, including invisible or non-apparent disabilities such as chronic illness, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities, to discuss reasonable accommodations with me, and to have a conversation about how our classroom or course activities could impact the disability and what accommodations would be essential to you.

You will also need to have a conversation about and provide documentation of your disability to the [Coordinator for Disability Resources](#), located on the ground level floor of Steiner Hall (641-269-3124).

Attendance and extension policies:

I understand the unique challenges you will likely face this semester as we commence classes within the context of a pandemic, and I will provide flexibility, when possible, for students who need to miss class sessions. If you have legitimate reasons to miss class or turn in an assignment late, please let me know in advance and supply relevant documentation. I am also happy to work with you to develop a plan for continue to maintain progress in the course if you need to miss a number of classes. If you face other challenges in personal life that makes it necessary for you to request extensions on assignments, you are also encouraged to talk to me.

Schedule

Online readings marked by @
**The reading assignments are subject to change*

Date	Topic and Activity	Assignments
8/27 F	Introduction	Syllabus @
8/30 M	Reforms and Revolutions	Wasserstrom and Wu, "You Say You Want a Revolution" @
9/1 W	But first, what do we mean by "China"?	"Approaches to Chinese History" @
9/3 F	The Last Empire I	Horner, "The Qing Dynasty and Pax Manjurica" @ Chen, 26-32
9/6 M	The Last Empire II	Chen, 42-63
9/8 W	China's Clash with the West	Chen, 77-93
9/10 F	The War on Drugs	Chen, 94-110
9/13 M	The Taiping Rebellion	Meyer-Fong @ Chen, 119-133 (SKIM)
9/15 W	The First "Modernity" Movement	Chen 134-52

9/17 F	Colonizing China?	Hevia @
9/20 M	The Boxers	Cohen @ Chen 174-8
9/22 W	The Fall of the Empire	Chen 155-8, 179-200
9/24 F	The Republican Revolution <i>*First primary source analysis due</i>	Kirby, "The Internationalization of China" @
9/27 M	New Women for a New China	Hershatter, <i>Women and China's Revolutions</i> , Chp 3
9/29 W	The New Culture Movement	Chen, 203-8, 219-30, 239-43 231 (intro section of 13.4-5)
10/1 F	Revolution in Retreat	Lary, "The Nanjing Decade" edited @ *Chen, 269-296
10/4 M	The World of Mao Zedong	Karl, <i>Mao Zedong and Twentieth Century China</i> (excerpt) @
10/6 W	China in World War II	Chen, 318-39
10/8 F	Civil War and the Birth of the PRC	Chen, 342-4, 347-62 Karl, <i>Mao Zedong and Twentieth Century China</i> (excerpt) @

10/11 M	Early Years of the PRC	Chen, 364-72
10/13 W	Historicize “Mao Zedong Thought”	Mao, “On Agricultural Cooperatives” 1955 @ Chen, “Peasant and Woman in Maoist Revolutionary Theory, 1920s– 1950s” @
10/15 F	Mao’s Great Famine *Documentary watching homework	Shapiro, <i>Mao’s War Against Nature</i> @ (excerpt)
	10/16-24 Fall Break	
10/25 M	The Great Leap Forward *Scaffolding paper due In-class	Review Shapiro, <i>Mao’s War Against Nature</i> @
10/27 W	The Cultural Revolution I In-class	Mitter, <i>A Bitter Revolution</i> (excerpt) @
10/29 F	The Cultural Revolution II Online	Chen, 467-76
11/1 M	Cold War and China In-class	Mitter, <i>Oxford Handbook section</i> @ Westad, <i>The Global Cold War</i> (excerpt) @

11/3 W	Deng Xiaoping's Reforms In-class	Deng, 1984@ Chen, 536-41 <i>Chen, 497-513 (skim)</i>
11/5 F	Tiananmen Student Movement I Film screening (The Gate of Heavenly Peace)	No meeting
11/8 M	Tiananmen Student Movement II In-class	Chen, 547-65
11/10 W	From Deng to Jiang In-class	Baum, <i>Burying Mao</i> (excerpt) @
11/12 F	The "Floating Population" Online <i>*Second primary source analysis due on Saturday</i>	Solinger, <i>Contesting Citizenship</i> (excerpt) @
11/15 M	Population and Society In-Class	Chen, 514-28, 531-6

11/17 W	Environmental Challenges and New Power Dynamics In-Class	Mertha, <i>China's Water Warriors</i> (excerpt) @ Economy, "Environmental Governance" @ [SKIM]
11/19 F	The "Value Vacuum" In-Class	Link et al, <i>Restless China</i> (excerpt) @
11/22 M	Social Trust and Nostalgia In-Class	Yan, "Food Safety and Social Risks in Contemporary China" *Explore Li Ziqi's Youtube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC47do520os_4DBMEFGg4A
11/24 W	The Tibet Question In-Class	Goldstein, 37-131@ Chen, 566-70
	11/26 Thanksgiving no class	<i>*Optional final project topic check-in</i>
11/29 M	Xinjiang and the Chinese Muslims In-Class	Milward, "Historical Xinjiang" @

12/1 W	Internet Revolution In-Class	Link et al, <i>Restless China</i> (excerpt) @
12/3 F	Small Commerce and Urban Revolution Online	Hanser, "Street Politics" @
12/6 M	Revolutionary Historiography Online	Li, "From Revolution to Modernization" @ *Wang, "To Reform a Revolution" @
12/8 W	Hong Kong and Shanghai In-Class	Wasserstrom, "HongKong now, Shanghai then" @
12/10 F	Contemplating China's Future In-Class	Review
	Exam week Final paper due	