

HIS 277 China's Rise
M, W, F, 11:00 – 11:50 am
Prof. Weiwei Luo
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Office hours in Mears 312: M,W,TH. 2-3pm, and by appointment

China's Rise: Individuals, Nations, and Worlds

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the history of China 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 approach this transformation by examining how the Chinese dealt with issues of governance, economy, education, gender, race, religion, and international relations, and what it meant to be simultaneously “Chinese” and “modern.”

Learning Goals:

In this course, students will practice the basic historical skill of accessing distant worlds that survive in fragmentary, and often contentious, memories and voices. In addition to learning the “facts,” students will also hone their skills of analysis and writing. More specifically, students will learn:

- To think historically by contextualizing primary sources and drawing connections between ideas and contexts
- To develop both specific and contextual perspectives over the history of China in the last two centuries
- To compare and contrast ideas and practices across cultures and periods with empathy
- To formulate questions that are useful for discussing a work and that lead to new ideas or insights
- To clearly convey complex ideas and effectively use primary sources in writing assignments

Required Books:

a. Major textbook:

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

b. Other primary readings:

Melvyn C. Goldstein. *The Snow Lion and the Dragon: China, Tibet, and the Dalai Lama*

Kang Zhengguo (Author) and Susan Wilf (Translator). *Confessions: An Innocent Life in Communist China*

- c. Supplemental readings will be available as PDFs (marked by @)
- d. Films and documentaries (See Schedule for when excerpts will be shown in class)

Course Requirements:

It is expected that students will attend all classes, carefully read all assigned material before class, actively participate in class discussions, and complete all written and presentation assignments in a timely manner.

Attendance and Participation (25%): 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. Participation (15%) includes taking part in discussions, completing assignments, and other learning activities associated with the class.

Guided Response Papers (20%) This is in preparation for Part I & II of the final project. You will be writing a total of 5 short, one-page comments based on a given week's reading. They will help assess and practice your reading and writing skills early on in the semester and ensure opportunities for improvement. The first paper is ungraded, and a detailed prompt will be given on how to complete this paper before each assignment date. *For more information, see Assignment Sheet* (under Assignment on PWeb).

Guided Primary Source Analysis (15%): This is in preparation for Part III and IV of the final project. A total of 4 one-page analytical essays on a primary source 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. The first paper is ungraded, and a detailed prompt will be given on how to complete this paper before each assignment date. *For more information, see Assignment Sheet*.

Quizzes: (15%) A total of 3 quizzes in the form of term identifications will be given throughout the semester (see Schedule). These will help you learn key terms, names, and dates.

Final Project: Research Portfolio (25%). Plan for a compelling research project without writing the actual paper. This portfolio includes 5 parts: research questions, a prospectus, a literature review, a sample primary source analysis, and an annotated bibliography. *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

Class Policies**Laptop policy:**

Each class is divided into “**lecture**” and “**discussion.**” Laptops are strongly discouraged with the following exceptions:

- 1) Laptops are allowed during **lectures** for note-taking purposes.
- 2) Great discussions are facilitated by everyone’s full attention including eye contact. If you have good reasons to use laptops during **discussions**, please come to talk to me at the beginning of the class. Otherwise, please put laptops away during discussions.
- 3) Even if you have my approval to use a laptop in the course, if I find that you are using it in ways that are distracting for you or the class I will ask you to put it away.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you need and want accommodations in this class, please contact Autumn Wilke, in Academic Advising (wilkeaut@grinnell.edu, (641) 269-3124). She will work with you to specify the accommodations and give you a letter outlining these. This process ensures your equal participation in the class while protecting your privacy. If your access needs have already been specified, please provide me with the letter.

Mandatory meetings with the instructor:

Please sign up to meet with me during the first 2 weeks of the semester, so I can get to know your individual interests and needs (<https://doodle.com/poll/xabhe9eg38fiuzwp>).

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.

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.

Study tips:

There are many ways to read a text; even a single method of reading will generate multiple meanings for different readers. When doing the readings for this class, it is helpful to always hold a few questions in your mind (like the ones I give at the end of each class.) Having a set of focusing questions is like viewing the night sky with a telescope; it puts you in control of the relationship between the object viewed and your field of vision, giving you a sense of mastery over the text. While reading, take notes within the book/article as well as writing out more detailed notes by hand. On the day of the meeting, it is helpful to reread the notes and parts of the text to refresh your memory. Everything in this course is cumulative, meaning that you will have difficulty understanding the texts later in the semester if you have not kept pace with the syllabus. So do not skip any of the reading assignments and read everything on time.

Course Schedule
Online readings marked by @

Date	Topic	Assignments
8/31 F	The Fall and Rise of China	Syllabus @
9/3 M	The Legacy of Imperial China	Chen, 4-5; Goldstein, 1-29
9/5 W	The Manchu Conquest	Chen, 19-28 Guided response paper 1
9/7 F	China and the West: beginning of the clash	Chen, 77-93
9/10 M	<i>The Opium War (1997)</i>	Chen, 94-110
9/12 W	Domestic and International Crises	Guided source analysis 1 Spence@ Chen 155-8, 164-7
9/14 F	The New Road: Republic of China	Chen 179, 182-91, 194-7
9/17 M	<i>China: A Century of Revolution I (1989)</i>	Mitter @; Bergère @ Quiz 1
9/19 W	Warlords in a period of disunion	Mitter @; Chen, 207-10
9/21 F	The New Culture Movement	Chen, 219-30 Lu Xun @ Guided response paper 2

9/24 M	Governing the Chinese Republic	Lary @
9/26 W	Early Communist movement	Chen, 249-57
9/28 F	The world of Mao Zedong	Mao 1927@ Karl @
10/1 M	The Nanjing decade	Chen, 258-65, 269-71, 286-9 Guided source analysis 2
10/3 W	Communist survival <i>China: A Century of Revolution I (1989)</i>	Chen, 290-9, 305-9
10/5 F	China in World War II <i>Madame Chiang Kai-shek in the U.S. (1943)</i>	Chen, 318-27 Quiz 2
10/8 M	Japanese Aggression in China	Chen, 327-42
10/10 W	The Civil War and the Rise of the CCP	Chen, 343, 360-1, 364-72 Guided response paper 3
10/12 F	Early Years of the PRC	Chen, 373-80, 386-93 Kang, 1-34
10/15 M	Reforming society <i>China: A Century of Revolution II</i>	Chen, 394-411
10/17 W	<i>Mao's Great Famine (2012)</i>	Chen, 422-36 Guided source analysis 3
10/19 F	The Cultural Revolution	Kang, 108-70
10/22-26	Fall Break	
10/29 M	<i>To Live (1994)</i>	Chen, 467-78
10/31 W	Navigating Domestic and International Relations	Chen, 460-4, 478-82 Goldstein, 37-60 Guided response paper 4

11/2 F	Chinese Diplomacy	Chen, 464-7
11/5 M	Cold War and China	Westad @ Quiz 3
11/7 W	Opening to the world	Chen, 489-97 “Comedians’ Dialogues”@ Guided source analysis 4
11/9 F	Research literacy training with Megan Adams at the Library Computer Lab	<i>TBA</i>
11/12 M	Deng Xiaoping’s legacy	Vogel@ Guided response paper 5
11/14 W	Five Modernizations <i>The Gate of Heavenly Peace (1995)</i>	Chen, 497-513 Liu @
11/16 F	Out of poverty: new social problems	Chen, 514-28, 536-41 Proposed research topics due
11/19 M	Tiananmen: Memories of Historical Events <i>The Gate of Heavenly Peace (1995)</i>	Chen, 547-65 Nathan@
11/21 W	The Tibet Question	Goldstein, 61-131 Chen, 566-70
11/22-23	Thanksgiving	
11/26 M	The Chinese Muslims <i>The Horse Thief (1986)</i>	Millward @ Prospectus draft due
11/28 W	Population and ecology	Marks @ Chen, 574-84
11/30 F	Human rights	Chen, 570-4 Angle @
12/3 M	Economic Development and Political Transformations <i>China from the Inside I (2006)</i>	Spence@ Chen, 604-11 Revised prospectus due
12/5 W	Gender, Class, and Social (In)equality <i>China from the Inside III (2006)</i>	Spence@ Kang, 421-443
12/7 F	Chinese Diaspora	Zhang@; Khu@

12/10 M	China's sharp and soft powers	Spence@ Goodman@
12/12 W	Review session--final project preparations (no meeting)	Literature review due Annotated bibliography due
12/14 F	Conclusion and evaluations	
12/20, 10am	Full research portfolio due	