

CHINA'S RISE FRAMEWORKS AND ECOLOGY

History 295-05, Spring 2015
W, F, 8:30-9:50AM, Mears 217

Matthew D. Johnson
johnsonm@grinnell.edu
Mears Cottage 318
Office hours: by appointment T-F, 4:15-5:00pm (alternate arrangements possible)

Course Description

In 1949, Mao Zedong declared that “the Chinese people have stood up.” Twenty years later, Mao's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution brought China's people to the precipice of disaster. Fast forward another twenty years, and China has once again "stood up" in the international community. How can we account for these changes? By focusing on foreign policy, political economy, social experience, and changing energy regimes, this course addresses and evaluates China's rise to great power status.

NOTE: THIS COURSE IS READING- AND WRITING-INTENSIVE

Course Goals, Structure, and Requirements

Much of our class time will be devoted to discussion of sources and scholarly texts. For this reason, it is expected and required that you will come to each class having read the assigned texts, that you will have addressed (in your thinking, and in your notes) the pre-circulated questions which are intended to guide you in your approach to those texts, and that you will participate actively and regularly in class discussions. Preparing for discussion involves extrapolating larger implications from the readings and grappling with their significance. To that end, you should bring these questions to each day's readings:

- How do the texts for the day relate to one another and to the larger themes and other readings in the course?
- Do these readings reinforce or complicate a particular angle of interpretation?
- What overlaps or discrepancies emerge when you hold up these texts next to each other?
- What kind of story do they tell about continuity and change over time?

NOTE 2: IN ADDITION TO THE TEXTS DESCRIBED ON THE SYLLABUS, WE WILL BE REGULARLY ADDING ADDITIONAL AND REQUIRED PRIMARY SOURCES, SCHOLARLY TEXTS, AND OTHER MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE TERM

You must cite evidence, both in discussion and in your written work. In the context of discussion, “citation” refers to specific details and, ideally, texts and page numbers. In the context of your written work citation means either MLA (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>) or Chicago (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) style.

Finally, while the content goal of this course concerns East Asian history, there is also an important set of process goals which are intended to build your general skills in the following areas:

- Writing and revision -- that is, writing as a process.
- Effective reading which allows you to engage constructively and critically with existing interpretations in a scholarly field.
- Library- and technology-aided research.
- Approaching knowledge from both positivist (“what do we know through observation?”) and critical (“how might we be wrong?”) perspectives.
- Understanding and testing of big themes, often derived from social science and historiographical literature (e.g. war and state making, ideology vs. realism, etc.), within a specific global and/or historical context.

Course Texts

These required texts are available at the college bookstore. Additional readings will be made available online via course emails which will include embedded links and attached documents. It is a requirement of this course that you will have in-class access to all texts assigned for each session.

Brantly Womack, *China's Rise in Historical Perspective* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010)

Odd Arne Westad, *Restless Empire: China and the World since 1750* (Basic Books, 2012)

J. R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth Century World* (Norton, 2001, reprint)

Elizabeth C. Economy and Michael Levi, *By All Means Necessary: How China's Resource Quest is Changing the World* (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Andrew C. Mertha, *China's Water Warriors: Citizen Action and Policy Change* (Cornell University Press, 2010)

****NOTE 3: IN ADDITION, A REGULAR AND PREDICTABLE ELEMENT OF THIS COURSE WILL BE A FRIDAY EMAIL FROM ME PREVIEWING THE WEEK AHEAD, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL READINGS AND RESOURCES (SEE NOTE 2), READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, DESCRIPTIONS OF IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, AND FURTHER NOTES CONCERNING EXPECTATIONS****

Questions to Ask of Course Readings

I. For primary sources (texts produced during the period under investigation, i.e. pieces of the historical record):

- 1) What was the writer's intent in creating that text?
- 2) Who or what is the subject of the piece? Whom does the author claim to represent or speak for?

- 3) Who was the intended audience? How does the author attempt to connect with that audience?
 - 4) What kind of story is the author trying to tell, and how does he/she structure that narrative? What argument does the author seek to advance? Which passage best exemplifies the underlying point of the piece?
 - 5) What rationale or evidence does the author employ to make his/her case? Which elements of the story are factual, and which are subject to interpretation?
 - 6) What was the larger historical context in which the author was working?
 - 7) What kind of background or bias shaped the author's message?
- (NOTE: if any of above questions cannot be answered by the text itself, or if any textual references are unclear, do a little digging!)

II. For secondary sources (historians' analyses of the past):

- 1) What question is the writer posing?
- 2) How does the author answer that question? Which sentence(s) best state the writer's overall argument?
- 3) What other interpretation(s) does the author appear to be arguing against?
- 4) How does the author develop the argument throughout the piece? What are the sub-arguments that bolster the main argument? What kind of story is the author trying to tell?
- 5) How does the author use evidence to prove the argument? (Note: you need to read footnotes in order to answer that question!)

You may be called upon to provide answers to any/all questions that apply on a given day, and to support your answers with specific points in the text.

Assignments and Grading

Paper 1: China's Rise – Continuities between Past and Present – 10%

Paper 2: China's Rise – Sources of Dynamism – 15%

Paper 3: The Ecology of China's Rise – 15%

Research Contribution: collaborative final project – 10%

Research Bibliography: final version – 15%

*Class participation (including preparation for activities and workshops, **daily reading summaries, presentations, and participation in discussion) – 35%*

A significant requirement of course is active and informed participation in classroom discussions. In general, I'll be looking for evidence that you've done the reading, that you're thinking about the themes and issues covered by the class, and that you're making a good-faith effort to improve the classroom experience for everyone enrolled in the course. Remember that there are many ways to make useful contributions: the simplest way is to answer one of

my questions or to bring up a detail from the readings, but participation also involves responding to your classmates, making connections between the day's readings and earlier discussions, synthesizing comments made by classmates, and asking questions of the class, the professor, or both. Using specific passages in the text to support your ideas will be a key part of your participation grade as well. Over the course of the semester, I'll encourage everyone to participate in different ways, both to recall details, anecdotes, and ideas from the readings and to analyze our course materials in light of the themes of the course and the results of our discussions. I will also be assigning periodic ungraded, but mandatory, homework the completion of which will also contribute to your participation grade.

I do not have an ironclad rule about how often each student needs to speak in class: you should generally average at least one comment or question per class period, but I understand that some of you will always be more reserved than others and that everyone has days when they're less likely to participate. My main advice, then, is that you come speak to me if you're concerned about your level of participation or want advice on how to get more involved in class, and that you remember that the thoughtfulness of your classroom comments is more important than the frequency with which you speak. Remember that class participation depends on attendance. I'll be keeping track of attendance throughout the semester; if you miss class once or twice, that won't affect your performance in the class, but if you have more than two unexcused absences, your participation grade will go down.

A final note: If you have any concerns about your grade, please contact me. Likewise, I will do my utmost to help you to improve your performance in the class, particularly if you are encountering challenges in meeting the requirements.

****NOTE 4: WE WILL WORKSHOP AND PEER REVIEW THESIS STATEMENTS, PAPER OUTLINES, AND OTHER INSTRUCTOR-ASSIGNED WORK, AND ENGAGED PARTICIPATION IN THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE AN EXPECTATION OF ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS****

Accommodations and Academic Honesty

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation identifying any special needs to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, whose office is located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center. Students should then notify me within the first few days of class. Students should also be aware of Grinnell's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism, it goes without saying, will not be tolerated in this course

Further Notes on Course Design and Curriculum Goals

- It is also the goal of the course that we will, together, build a successful learning community within our classroom. A successful learning community is one that is positive, fosters engagement, is safe, and promotes risk-taking (<http://www.sequimschools.wednet.edu/domain/781>).
- "What will habit not do to [every one of us]?" – F. Dostoevsky
- Our classroom is a living system. This means:

- Shared leadership (http://works.bepress.com/elizabeth_turesky/6/)
 - That the classroom strives to be a model for a successful organization or team (http://positiveorgs.bus.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/merged_document1.pdf)
 - Inescapable dynamism. Content is only one of the classroom's several features, the others being (at minimum) student, teacher, and context (<http://www.theclassroomsystem.org/System/>).
 - Like all organizations, the classroom is located within other social and environmental systems which, like knowledge, change ceaselessly and in relationship to one another.
- This course is consciously – that is to say, by design – a work in process. Students are co-creators of knowledge both in the sense that student preparation and discussion are an essential, but also unpredictable, classroom component, and that the instructor's week-to-week choices concerning elements of class format, supplementary required readings, and collaborative activities are meant to respond to student (individual, collective) feedback and needs.
 - Using technology to teach: new connections, deeper engagement, rapid feedback, multiple perspectives, **more time.
(<http://researchnetwork.pearson.com/elearning/teaching-in-a-digital-age>)
 - The architecture of information, and therefore the context of our research, has changed radically in the past decade [c.a. 2005-2015, since the advent of Google?]. Learning communities that do not adapt to this new research reality will face significant, and most likely insurmountable, challenges to credibility.
 - Complexity/risk → we research every day
(<http://firstmonday.org/article/view/3484/2857>).
 - The metacognitive tasks (e.g. interpretation, analysis, organization, persuasion) around which even the best higher educations are organized can only take students so far, particularly in the current information age.
 - Performing advanced functions on inert or created-by-rote data → restriction of learning outcomes.
 - Not “instead of,” but “in addition to.”
 - Metacognition and the research process: research as learning conversation among researchers who may never meet
(<http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/article/download/40848/22580>).
 - Online research: mapping, intelligence, intuition → knowing how to know, knowing what is valuable.
 - Thinking relationally as well as hermeneutically. (What's important? To whom?)
 - In a competitive knowledge economy, value = innovation via arbitrage of information asymmetries, **visible** distinction.
 - Time compression → need for new communicative formats.
 - The interpretive future is now: Digital humanities: digitization plus visualization? Big data: the predictive wisdom of crowds? [Shades of the post-war world; beware GIGO.]

China's Rise
Frameworks and Ecology
Spring 2015
Matthew Johnson

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

UNIT ONE: DEFINING RISE, CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT

WEEK ONE

Meeting One, Jan. 21

- Introductions; Course overview and expectations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR_6Ysk4yIU [Dan Rather, Asia Society]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4Kwio_CRVI [Dong Tao, Credit Suisse]

x <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvMxqWTdINQ> [VOA]

Meeting Two, Jan. 23

- Womack, *China's Rise in Historical Perspective*, "Introduction," "1. China and the World," and "2. On China's Rise"

**ACTIVITY: Defining "rise"

<http://thediplomat.com/2013/02/chinese-dream-draft/> [The Diplomat]

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/sites/default/files/global/docs/johnston_paper.pdf [Iain Johnston]

WEEK TWO

Meeting One, Jan. 28

- Womack, *China's Rise in Historical Perspective*, "3. China's Strategy and Security Issues in Historical Perspective," "4. China's Strategy and Security in the Post-Cold War Era," and "5. China's Prereform Economy in World Perspective"

- Niu Jun, "The Transformation of Chinese Foreign Policy and Its Impact on East Asia: International Patterns in the 1950s"

Meeting Two, Jan. 30

- Womack, *China's Rise in Historical Perspective*, "6. The Dynamics of China's Reform-Era Economy," "7. The Environmental Impasse in Late Imperial China," and "8. China's Energy Rise"

- Robert A. DeVillar, "Chinese Scientific Socialism in Global Perspective: ..."

- OPTIONAL: <http://www.rrojasdatabank.info/china16.htm>

- OPTIONAL: <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33534.pdf>

**ACTIVITY: Ecologies and systems—security, economy, energy

WEEK THREE

Meeting One, Feb. 4

- Womack, *China's Rise in Historical Perspective*, "9. The Political Creativity of Late Imperial China," "10. Political Creativity and Political Reform in China?" and "11. Struggle for Identity: A Political Psychology of China's Rise"

<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/college/coll-china-politics-002.html>

[Resolution on history, <https://www.marxists.org/subject/china/documents/cpc/history/01.htm>]

**WORKSHOP: Thesis statements, papers, and presentations

Meeting Two, Feb. 6

**ACTIVITIES: Reading China online; Reading from notes to text

WEEK FOUR

****Paper due, Feb. 9: China's Rise – Continuities between Past and Present**

Meeting One, Feb. 11

- Presentations (1), Updating contemporary narratives

Meeting Two, Feb. 13

- Presentations (2), Updating contemporary narratives

UNIT TWO: INTERNATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

WEEK FIVE

Meeting One, Feb. 18

- Westad, *Restless Empire*, "Empire," "1. Metamorphosis," and "2. Imperialisms"

Meeting Two, Feb. 20

- Westad, *Restless Empire*, "3. Japan" and "4. Republic"

WEEK SIX

Meeting One, Feb. 25

- Westad, *Restless Empire*, "5. Foreigners," "6. Abroad," and "7. War"

Meeting Two, Feb. 27

- Westad, *Restless Empire*, "8. Communism" and "9. China Alone"

WEEK SEVEN

Meeting One, Mar. 4

- Westad, *Restless Empire*, "10. China's America," "11. China's Asia," and "Modernities"

Meeting Two, Mar. 6

- Activity: Blogging *Restless Empire*

****JOINT MEETING WITH PROFESSIONAL WRITING CLASS (DETAILS TBA)**

WEEK EIGHT

****Paper due, Mar. 9: China's Rise – Sources of Dynamism**

Meeting One, Mar. 11

- Presentations (1): Chinese perspectives on global issues

Meeting Two, Mar. 13

- Presentations (2): Chinese perspectives on global issues

****SPRING BREAK, MAR. 14-29****

UNIT THREE: ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES (1) – BACKGROUND

WEEK NINE

Meeting One, Apr. 1

- McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun*, “1. Prologue: Peculiarities of a Prodigal Century,” “5. The Hydrosphere: The History of Water Use and Water Pollution,” and “6. The Hydrosphere: Depletions, Dams, and Diversions”

Meeting Two, Apr. 3

- Marks, *China: Its Environment and History*, “6. Environmental Degradation in Modern China, 1800-1949”

WEEK TEN

Meeting One, Apr. 8

- McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun*, “9. More People, Bigger Cities,” “10. Fuels, Tools, and Economics,” “11. Ideas and Politics,” and “12. Epilogue: So What?”

Meeting Two, Apr. 10

- Marks, *China: Its Environment and History*, “7. ‘Controlling’ Nature in the People’s Republic of China, 1949-Present”

WEEK ELEVEN

Meeting One, Apr. 15

- Economy and Levi, *By All Means Necessary*, “1. Introduction,” “2. From Tribute to Treaty Port to Global Trade,” “3. China Emerges,” 4. “China Goes Out,” “5. China Arrives,” and “6. Growing Good Governance”

Meeting Two, Apr. 17

- Economy and Levi, *By All Means Necessary*, “7. Beyond the Developing World,” “8. Security and Politics in China’s Backyard,” “9. Security and Politics Abroad,” and “10. Resource Strategy in a Changing World”

WEEK TWELVE

Meeting One, Apr. 22

- Zhang and Barr, *Green Politics in China*, “Introduction,” “1. Who Is to Blame?” “2. Ways of Seeing,” and “3. Ways of Changing”

Meeting Two, Apr. 24

- Zhang and Barr, *Green Politics in China*, “4. Conformist Rebels,” “5. The Green Leap Forward,” and “Conclusion: To Stomach a Green Society”

UNIT FOUR: ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES (2) – COLLABORATIVE AND MENTORED RESEARCH

WEEK THIRTEEN

****Paper due, Apr. 28: The Ecology of China’s Rise**

Meeting One, Apr. 29

- Activity: Group research

Meeting Two, May 1

- Activity: Group research

WEEK FOURTEEN

Meeting One, May 6

- Presentations (1): China’s Rise – Implications for Global Water Systems

Meeting Two, May 8

- Presentations (2): China’s Rise – Implications for Global Water Systems

****White paper sections due, Friday, May 8**

****EXAM WEEK, MAY 11-15****

****No exam, individual annotated research bibliographies due Friday, May 15, 5:00pm.**