

# Shanghai: The Key to Modern China?

BU in Shanghai: Spring 2010

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HI 387/IR 371

Part 1: Mon/Wed 3-5 pm  
Wenke, Room 1004

Part 2: Wed. 10-11:30 am  
Guanghua West, Room 206

*Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays by appt.  
BU Center Office @ Fuxuan Bldg., Room 601*

## Course Overview

The city of Shanghai has had multiple and changing reputations and representations. It has been simultaneously blamed as the source of all that was and is wrong in China and praised as the beacon of an advanced national future. Historically, the city has been China's leading colonial port, the location of its urban modernity, a national center of things from finance to fashion, and the home of radical revolutionary politics. The objective of this course is to use the social, cultural, political, and economic history of Shanghai as a lens to understand the making of modern China.

The late imperial, Republican, and People's Republic periods will be covered, ending with an introduction to the era of Opening and Reform. We will question if and how the history of Shanghai provides a key to understanding the history of modern China. Themes will include the role of city's colonial past in shaping its history and whether Shanghai is somehow unique or representative of what we know as "modern China." As part of this course, we will take advantage of our location to visit significant historical sights and exhibits.

Prior knowledge of Chinese history is not required. The course is designed to help students experience a historical tradition outside the western one, to further develop their analytical and communication skills through interpreting secondary and primary sources and through writing, and to appreciate different approaches to the study of history and international relations.

## Important dates in this course:

- Feb. 10, Wed.: first essay is due.
- March 10, Wed.: second essay is due.
- March 31, Wed.: third essay is due.
- May 5, Wed.: fourth essay is due.
- May 31, Mon.: take-home final paper is due.

## Course Requirements

☉ Your final grade in this course will be assessed as follows:

Class discussion: 15%

Four short 5-page papers: 15% each, three totaling 60%

Take-home final exam, which is a longer paper: 25%

☉ Students must complete reading assignments for the designated day BEFORE attending class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class.

☉ Discussion in class benefits us all. Its purpose is to: 1) inspire active and critical reading of the assigned materials, 2) enhance skills for analytical thinking and effective presentation of ideas in front of a group, and 3) learn different perspectives from other students. Your contributions to class discussions are an important aspect of your overall participation in the course.

☉ Students will write 4 five-page papers on assigned topics. These will either be “book reviews,” based on the assigned monographs, supplemented by knowledge from class lectures and discussions; or an essay on a specific topic. Detailed instructions will be given in separate assignment handouts.

In these essays you will be required to identify scholarly theses, locate and evaluate historical evidence, analyze arguments, and demonstrate an understanding of historical context. Mastering the technique of presenting complicated material in a concise format is one goal of this class. The intention of the “book review” and other assignments is not to summarize the assigned readings but instead to offer critical historical analyses of the readings.

☉ A final take-home essay examination of approximately 10 pages is due at the end of the course.

☉ Attendance in all classes, including field study events, is expected. *Missing classes will affect your grade.* If you cannot attend a specific class you must make all efforts to notify the professor beforehand or to explain your absence later.

☉ Schedules, topics, and readings may be revised at times, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.

☉ No make-up or late exams will be given, except in case of extreme emergencies. Emergencies require adequate documentation and the instructor’s agreement that an emergency necessitated that a deadline be missed.

☉ Written assignments must be turned in on the dates specified. Late work will be penalized with a ½ grade deduction for each day of delay.

☉ All assignments in this course are to be completed independently. Collaborative work is neither required nor allowed.

## Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All students are responsible for having read Boston University's statement on plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty published in the Code of Student Responsibilities. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University international program for academic dishonesty may be "expulsion from the program or Boston University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean."

If you need to study the Code of Student Responsibilities to learn more about the rules of academic conduct, see:

<http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/university-policies/policies-code.html>

For a good introduction on plagiarism, see:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

## Required texts

The following books are required for this course, to be read in part or entirely according to the syllabus. Most of these books will be given to you in Shanghai as photocopies, at no additional cost. You may order copies of these books if you desire at your own cost.

*Shanghai: From Market Town to Treaty Port, 1074-1858*

Linda Cooke Johnson  
Stanford University Press, 1995  
ISBN: 978-0804722940

*Global Shanghai, 1850–2010*

Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom  
Routledge, 2009  
ISBN: 978-0415213271

*Shanghai Splendor: Economic Sentiments and the Making of Modern China, 1843-1949*

Wen-hsin Yeh  
University of California Press, 2007  
ISBN: 978-0-520-25817-4

*Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century*

Hanchao Lu  
University of California Press, 2004  
ISBN: 978-0-520-24378-1

*Policing Shanghai, 1927-1937*

Frederic Wakeman, Jr.  
University of California Press, 1996  
ISBN: 978-0-520-20761-5

☺ Also required are selected secondary readings and primary sources, etc., which will be distributed to class members electronically as PDF files or as photocopies.

## Additional Field Trips

We will make several visits throughout the semester to local historical sights and museums, generally on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays as our schedule allows. Possible field trips include the former site of the city wall, the Shanghai History Museum, Sun Yatsen's home, the WW2 Jewish Internment district, and the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery at Longhua.

## Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

The designated reading assignments are to be completed BEFORE attending class.

### PART 1 OF THE COURSE - Before Chunjie Break 春节以前

#### Week 1

Mon., Jan. 18: Introduction: Themes in Chinese History, Politics, and Culture

Wed., Jan. 20: Introduction, continued

Reading:

Cooke Johnson: Introduction, pp. 1-19

Sat., Jan. 23: 1 to 5 pm

Reading to be completed before field trip:

Cooke Johnson: finish, pp. 21-175

*Field trip* to the path of the former city wall and the district called Nanshi (the original walled city of Shanghai).

1 pm: Meet Prof. Rottmann at the Line 8 subway stop Dashijie, Exit 3.

Themes: Shanghai before the impact of imperialism

Bring a map of Shanghai with you.

#### Week 2

Mon., Jan. 25: Shanghai before the 1800s

Themes: Discussion of our field study trip; different ways to view SH and theories of analyzing urban history

Reading:

Wasserstrom: Introduction pp. 1-20

Wed., Jan. 27: External Pressures: Tea and Opium

Themes: Creation of the "preeminent treaty-port"; modernization theory

Readings:

Wasserstrom: Chapter 1-2, pp. 21-47

“Memorial on Legalizing Opium, June 10, 1836”

### Week 3

Mon., Feb. 1: No class. Field trip to Lijiang, Yunnan.

Wed., Feb. 3: Internal Crises: Rebellion and Corruption

Theme: What *local* role did foreigners play in this period?

Readings:

Read last few pages in copy of Cooke Johnson, pp. 270-91.

Begin Lu's *Beyond the Neon Lights*

Sat., Feb. 6: *Field Trip*, 2 to 5 pm

Class field trip to the Shanghai History Museum in Pudong

2 pm: Meet Prof. Rottmann at the Number 1 entrance to the museum

(Take subway Line 2 to the Lujiazui stop.)

Location: Museum is in the basement of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower in Pudong

<http://www.historymuseum.sh.cn/en.php>

Themes: Analyze how the museum has chosen to present the city's history; focus on Shanghai's significance before and after the impact of colonialism.

### Week 4

Mon., Feb. 8: Reform and Self-Strengthening

Theme: What *national* role did foreigners play in this period?

Reading:

Continue reading Lu's *Beyond the Neon Lights*

Wed., Feb. 10 : 1911; Fall of the Qing

Theme: How did the existence of treaty ports and the loss of national sovereignty effect the end of imperial China?

Reading:

Wasserstrom, Chapter 3, pp. 48-61

**First essay is due in class on Wednesday.**

**Weeks 5 and 6: No class meetings. Chunjie holiday break.**

**PART 2 OF THE COURSE - After Chunjie Break 春节以后**

**Week 7**

Wed., March 3: The Rise of the Republic

Reading: Finish Lu's *Beyond the Neon Lights*

Sat., March 6: *Field trip*, 2-5 pm

Shikumen Museum at Xintiandi and the CCP First Meeting Sight

Theme: Every Day Life in the City. Consider how class impacted life experiences in the city.

**Week 8**

Wed., March 10: The New Culture and May Fourth Movements

Themes: SH modernity, radicalism, bourgeois culture

Reading:

Begin Yeh's *Shanghai Splendor*

**Second essay on *Beyond the Neon Lights* is due.**

**Week 9**

Wed., March 17: The 1920s

Themes: Urban party politics; rise of the CCP

Reading:

Continue Yeh's *Shanghai Splendor*

**Week 10**

Wed., March 24: The Nanjing Decade (1927-37)

Themes: SH as home to the right and haven for the left; the international drug trade; SH as the urban model for the nation; the politics of patriotism

Readings:

Finish Yeh's *Shanghai Splendor*

Wasserstrom, Chapter 4, pp. 62-76

**Week 11**

Wed., March 31: World War Two (1937-1945)  
 themes: Japan and new heights of imperialism; WW2 begins in Shanghai  
Reading:  
 Begin Wakeman's *Policing Shanghai*

**Third essay on *Shanghai Splendor* is due.**

**Week 12**

Wed., April 7: Occupied Shanghai (1941-45); the Civil War (1945-49)  
 Themes: a divided city; the end of the concessions  
Readings:  
 Rottmann, "Crossing Enemy Lines: Shanghai and the Central China Base"  
 Continue Wakeman's *Policing Shanghai*

Sat., April 10: *Field Trip*, 1-5 pm  
 The Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery and the former GMD prison at Longhua; also, we can visit Longhua Temple, a large, old, active Buddhist temple.

**Week 13**

Wed., April 14: Explaining the Fall of the Guomindang Government  
 Theme: What role did SH play in the GMD's demise?  
Reading:  
 Continue Wakeman's *Policing Shanghai*

**Week 14**

Wed., April 28: Explaining the Fall of the Guomindang Government  
 Theme: What role did SH play in the GMD's demise?  
Reading:  
 Finish Wakeman's *Policing Shanghai*

**Week 15**

Wed., May 5: The 1950s: Now the Revolution  
 Theme: Cleansing a City with a Tarnished Past; Campaigns (*yundong* 运动)

**Fourth essay on *Policing Shanghai* is due.**

**Week 16**

Wed., May 12: A Hundred Flowers and a Great Leap

Reading:

Wasserstrom: Chapter 5, pp. 77-93

**Week 17**

Wed., May 19: The Cultural Revolution in Shanghai

Readings:

Selections from Nien Cheng, *Life and Death in Shanghai* (Penguin, 1988)

Selections from Perry and Li, *Proletarian Power* (Westview Press, 1997)

Lynn White, "What the Cultural Revolution Was, and Why It Happened"

**Week 18**

Wed., May 26: Post-Reform Shanghai

Theme: From Socialist Modernity to Shanghai Modernity?

Reading:

Wasserstrom: pp. 94-123 and Conclusion: Ten Theses, pp. 124-140

Rottmann, "*Finding Its Place in the Past*"

**Monday, May 31: TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE**

Your final is due by 5 p.m. in the BU Office or by e-mail.

### Classic Periods in Chinese History

Shang	1700 - 1050 BCE
Zhou	1050 - 221 BCE Western Zhou, 1050 - 771 BCE Eastern Zhou, 771 - 256 BCE Spring and Autumn period: 771 - 481 BCE The Warring States period: 403 - 221 BCE
Qin	221 - 206 BCE
Han	206 BCE - 220 CE Former Han: 206 BCE - 9 CE Later Han: 25 - 220 CE
North-South Division	220 - 589 CE Three Kingdoms 220 - 280 Jin 265 - 420 Northern Wei 386 - 535
Sui	589 - 618
Tang	618 - 907
Five Dynasties	907 - 960
Northern Song	960 - 1126: Liao empire on the northern border, 907-1126
Southern Song	1127 - 1276: Jin empire in North China, 1115-1234
Yuan	1215 - 1368 (1276, seized southern China)
Ming	1368 - 1644
Qing	1644 - 1911
Republic	1912 - 1949
People's Republic	1949 - present