



Boston University
Spring 2014

HI 364: Introduction to Modern Chinese History

Professor Eugenio Menegon

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 11-12
Location: CAS 213

Professor's Office: Department of History, 226 Bay State Road, room #409.
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Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 - 2 pm; and Wednesdays 12:30 - 2pm
and by appointment.

Blackboard Learn website for this course is available at: <https://learn.bu.edu>

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the main political, social, economic, religious and cultural developments from the final decades of the Ming dynasty (late 16th century), through the Qing period, the Republican period, the Civil War and the establishment of the People's Republic of China, up to the present. The course focuses on the development of the Chinese political system in the late imperial era, paying particular attention to the transformation of the Ming centralized bureaucratic system at the hand of the Manchu conquerors; the multi-ethnic nature of the Qing empire; the nineteenth century crises and their domestic and international dimensions; the attempts at reforms and the 1911 Republican revolution; the rise of the Communist movement and the establishment of the People's Republic; the Maoist era; the current period of economic reforms on the Mainland; and the social and political developments in Hong Kong and Taiwan. All along, we will pay attention to the evolution of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and other religions, and their role in modern Chinese history; the interaction between mainstream Chinese culture and foreign and minority cultures; economic growth and cultural achievements; and family and gender relations.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

The course will be conducted through lectures, films, and discussions. Requirements for the course include all reading assignments and participation in class discussion and activities (**attendance: 3%; participation in class and engagement with readings: 5% of the grade**), **responses to readings and maps (7% of the grade)**, **a midterm exam (25%)**, **a short paper (4-5 pages, 30% of the grade)**, and **a final examination (30% of the grade)**. Exams will consist of essays, short answers/identifications, and maps. Throughout the course students will be called upon to answer specific questions relating to the weekly readings, including the occasional extra reading

requirements, and to make map identifications or give short responses. Attendance in all classes (including film screenings) is expected and will be recorded. **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 (or extensions on the paper assignment) will be given, except in case of extreme emergencies, and then ONLY with adequate documentation and the instructor's agreement that it was an emergency.

MIDTERM in class: Friday, FEBRUARY 28, 2014, 11-12

PAPER DUE in class: Monday MARCH 31, 2014

FINAL: Thursday, MAY 8, 2014, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Plagiarism in any form is never acceptable. You are advised to review the college's definitions of and policies regarding plagiarism and cheating which are available online and in print. See: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html>

I will use a special anti-plagiarism service supplied by BU when appropriate.

Cell phones must be turned off during classes.

UNLESS YOU HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION OR DISABILITY WHICH REQUIRES ELECTRONIC NOTE-TAKING (PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THAT IS THE CASE), PORTABLE COMPUTERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS.

BOOKS

The following required and recommended books are available for purchase in the Barnes and Nobles University Bookstore:

Required Books:

1. Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (Third Edition), New York: W.W. Norton, 2013 (= **Textbook**)
2. Janet Chen, Cheng Pei-kai and Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China. A Documentary Collection* (Third Edition), New York: W.W. Norton, 2014 (= **Sourcebook**)
3. Mo Yan, *Red Sorghum*, Penguin, 1994.

Recommended Book:

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 6th edition. Boston: Bedford - St. Martin's, 2010.

Most of the readings will be in the Textbook and Sourcebook, but **occasionally we will draw on other interpretive required readings.** They will be posted on the class web-site

(Blackboard), and will be announced in advance in class and through the website as appropriate. Occasional films and/or documentaries will also be shown in class.

SYLLABUS OF READINGS

NOTE: Reading assignments are listed under the topics of class meetings to which they pertain. **THE INSTRUCTOR'S LECTURES WILL BUILD ON YOUR PRIOR CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE WEEKLY READINGS, AND IF YOU WANT TO AVOID FEELING LOST IN CLASS, DO YOUR READINGS REGULARLY.** Weekly questions on sources from the Sourcebook will be posted on Blackboard, indicating which readings to focus on for class discussion and/or personal study.

I. LATE MING TO HIGH QING

- **Week 1 (January 15, 17): Class Introduction & the Ming-Qing Transition**

Introduction: Issues in Modern Chinese History; Late Ming

Readings: Textbook, Ch. 1; Sourcebook, Ch. 1, doc. 1.8, Song Maocheng: The Tale of the Ungrateful Lover

- **Week 2 (Monday 1/20, NO CLASS; January 22, 24): The Manchu Conquest and the Early Qing Period (Shunzhi and Kangxi Reigns)**

The Manchu Conquest; Qing Consolidation

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 2-3; Sourcebook, Chs. 2-3, Docs. 2.4 A Letter from Dorgon to the Ming Loyalist Shi Kefa, 6th moon, 1644; 3.4 Kangxi's Valedictory Edict, 1717

- **Week 3 (January 27, 29, 31): The High Qing Period (Yongzheng - Qianlong Reigns and the 18th Century)**

Qianlong's Golden Age; China and the World in the 18th Century

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 4-5-6; Sourcebook, Chs. 5-6, Docs. 5.1, Wu Jingzi: From The Scholars (*Rulin Waishi*) (Fan Jin Passes the *Juren* Examination); 6.1, Lord Macartney's Commission from Henry Dundas, 1792; 6.4 & 6.5, Qianlong's rejection of Macartney's demands: Two edicts

II. LATE QING

- **Week 4 (February 3, 5, 7): Western Powers on the Shores and Internal Crisis**

Western Intrusion and the Opium Wars; Internal Crisis: Rebellions of the 19th Century

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 7-8; Sourcebook, Chs. 7-8, Docs. 8.1, Qian Yong on Popular Religion, 1838; 8.2, The Conversion of Liang Fa: Good Works to Exhort the Age, 1832; 8.5, Hong Xiuquan, “The Ode to Youth.”

- **Week 5 (February 10, 12, 14): Restoration**

Confucian Reform and Self-Strengthening

Readings: Textbook, Ch. 9; Sourcebook, Ch. 9, Docs. 9.1 “Yung Wing advises the Taiping & Zeng Guofan” and 9.6, “Chinese Anti-Foreignism, 1892”

- **Week 6 (no Monday class; February 19, 21): Late Qing Reforms and Tensions**

The Emergence of Nationalism

Readings: Textbook, Ch. 10; Sourcebook, Ch. 10, Docs. 10.1, Sun Yat-sen Reform Proposal to Li Hongzhang, 1894; 10.4, “Urban Life in the *Dianshizhai* Pictorial”; 10. 5 & 10.6, Boxer Memoirs

- **Week 7 (February 24, 26, 28): The End of the Dynasty**

Railways, Mercantile Bourgeoisie, and the Fall of the Qing

Readings: Textbook, Ch. 11; Sourcebook, Ch. 11, Doc. 11. 1. Zou Rong on Revolution, 1903; 11.3: Qiu Jin, “An Address to My Two Hundred Million Women Compatriots in China”

Friday, FEBRUARY 28: MIDTERM IN CLASS

III. REPUBLICAN CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

- **Week 8 (March 3, 5, 7): The New Republic and the May Fourth Era Intellectual Trends**

Political Experimentations with Democracy; The May Fourth Era Intellectual Trends

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 12-13; Sourcebook, Chs. 12-13, Docs 12.1, Yuan Shikai, “Poem to the Soldiers”; 13.4, Lu Xun, “A Madman’s Diary”

MARCH 8-16: SPRING RECESS

- **Week 9 (March 17, 19, 21): The Nationalist Party’s Ascent**

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 14-15; Sourcebook, Chs. 14-15: 14.1, Sun Yat-sen opens the Whampoa Academy, 1924; 15.8, Von Falkenhausen’s advice to Chiang Kai-shek, 1936

In preparation for the writing of your paper, start reading the first part of *Red Sorghum*, chapters 1 to 3

- **Week 10 (March 24, 26, 28): The Long March and the War**

The Communist Rural Movement; World War II in China

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 16-17; Sourcebook, Chs. 16-17, Docs. 16.2 -16.4, Three accounts of the New Life Movement; 17.4-17.5, “Bearing Witness” & the Nanjing “Murder Race”

Read the second part of *Red Sorghum*, chapters 4 to 5

Monday MARCH 31: PAPER ON RED SORGHUM DUE.

- **Week 11 (March 31, April 2, 4): The Fall of the Nationalists and the Communist Victory**

Civil War; The Establishment of the People’s Republic of China

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 18-19; Sourcebook, Chs. 18-19, Doc. 18.6, Mao’s Democratic Dictatorship, 1949; 19.2, New Laws, Marriage and Divorce, May 1950

IV. THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, AND THE CHINESE DIASPORA, 1950s- 2000s

- **Week 12 (April 7, 9, 11): A New Society**

Social, Economic and Intellectual Engineering in the 1950s

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 20-21; Sourcebook, Chs. 20-21, Docs. 20.1 and 20.2: A-Bombs and Paper Tigers; 20.3, "Let flowers of many kinds blossom" 1956; 20. 4, Professors Speak Out, 1957.

- **Week 13 (April 14, 16, **NO CLASS ON APRIL 18 [professional conference]**): The Cultural Revolution**

Re-igniting the Revolution?; The End of the Maoist Era

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 22-23; Sourcebook, Chs. 22-23, Docs. 22.3-22.4. The Future Direction of the Cultural Revolution

- **Week 14 (MONDAY 4/21 NO CLASS = Thursday: Monday's Schedule; April 23, 24, 25): Opening and Economic Reforms**

The Four Modernizations; The Primacy of Economy

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 24-25; Sourcebook, Chs. 24-25, 24.2 Wei Jingsheng, “The Fifth Modernization”

- **Week 15 (April 28, 30): The Tensions of Democracy and the Global Rise of China**

From the 1989 Tian An Men Incidents to Charter 08 and the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Readings: Textbook, Chs. 26 & 28; Sourcebook, Chs. 26 & 28, 26.5, “Deng Xiaoping's Explanation of the Crackdown,” June 9, 1989; 28.5, “Charter 08”

FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday, MAY 8, 2014, 12:30 - 2:30 PM