



Shanghai: The Key to Modern China?

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Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4:30

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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 cotton capital, 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 if possible 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 modernity, commercialism, 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 writing and critical interpretation of secondary and primary sources, and to appreciate different approaches to the study of history and international relations.

Important dates in this course:

- September 28/29 weekend: field trip
- October 15, Tuesday: first essay is due.
- October 26/27 weekend: field trip
- November 5, Tuesday: second essay is due.
- November 23/24 weekend: field trip
- November 26, Tuesday: third essay is due.
- Tuesday, December 20: take-home final paper is due.

Course Requirements

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

Participation in discussions: 10%

Presentation to class: 5%

Three short papers: 20% each, 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.

Grading Criteria for Discussion Participation

- A Strong preparation, frequent and substantive contribution to class discussion.
- B Good preparation, frequent contribution to class discussion.
- C Good preparation, frequent contribution to class discussion but not always articulate or related to subject matter.
- C- Some preparation, needs prompting from instructors for contribution.
- D Barely any preparation, communication minimal.
- F Attended class, but did not participate; or Absent from class

- ⌚ Students will write 3 short papers (between 2 and 8 pages) on assigned topics. These will either be critical book reviews based on the assigned monographs, supplemented by knowledge from class lectures and discussions; or essays on specific topics. 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 and ideas in a concise format is one goal of this class. The intention of these essays 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 15 pages is due at the end of the course.

- ⌚ Students will select an assigned reading and make a ten-minute presentation to the class. The presentation will provide a critical analysis of the reading to the class, focusing on an analysis of the author's thesis, themes, and goals. The presentation should include raising several questions for class discussion.

- ⦿ Attendance in all classes, including field study events, is mandatory. *Missing classes will affect your grade.* If you cannot attend a specific class because of a medical or legal emergency you must make all efforts to notify the professor beforehand.
- ⦿ 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 5% 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 understanding Boston University's statement on plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty published in the Academic Conduct Code. 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 Academic Conduct Code to learn more about the rules of academic conduct or what constitutes plagiarism, see:
<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

There is another good introduction on plagiarism at:
<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. Reading materials will be given to you in Shanghai as digital files or photocopies, for free or for small fees. You may purchase copies of these books if you desire at your own cost, but it can be hard and expensive to make these purchases in China.

Shanghai: From Market Town to Treaty Port, 1074-1858
 Linda Cooke Johnson
 Stanford University Press, 1995
 ISBN: 978-0804722940

Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century
 Hanchao Lu
 University of California Press, 2004
 ISBN: 978-0-520-24378-1

China in Revolution: A documentary series available online or from the BU Office library. Please view during the early part of the semester.

- ⌚ 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 visit local historical sights and museums, generally on the weekends 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, Duolun lu May 4 Culture Street, the Shikumen Museum, Site of the First National Congress of the CCP and the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery at Longhua.

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

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

Week 1

Tuesday, September 10: Introduction: Themes in Chinese History, Politics, and Culture

Week 2

Tuesday, September 17: Late Imperial Shanghai

Themes: Based on the assigned readings: what are the different ways to view SH and what theories may be used to study urban history?

Readings:

Cooke Johnson, *Shanghai* book, pp. 1-95

Wasserstrom: Introduction, pp. 1-20

Week 3

Tuesday, September 24: External Pressures: Tea and Opium

Theme: Creation of the “preeminent treaty-port”

Readings:

Xu Naiji. “Memorial on Legalizing Opium, June 10, 1836” (handout/PDF)

Lin Zexu. “Commissioner Lin Zexu’s Letter to Queen Victoria, 1839” (handout/PDF)

Wen-hsin Yeh, *Shanghai Splendor*, pp. 1-29

Cooke Johnson, *Shanghai* book, pp. 96-206

Suggested viewing pleasure, now or in the future: The film “Flowers of Shanghai” (海上花). Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien, 1998.

Field Study: September 28, Saturday (or the 29th?), 2 to 6 pm

2 pm: Meet at the Line 10 subway stop Laoximen, Exit 6.
 Bring a map of Shanghai with you and be prepared to take notes.
 (You may also want to bring a camera.)

First, we'll walk a bit in the district called Nanshi (the original walled city of Shanghai) and along the path of the former city wall (now Zhonghua and Renmin Roads). We'll see the tiny part of the city wall that still stands at Dajing ge 大境閣 (269 Dajing Lu). We'll also take time to visit Daoist Baiyun temple, which is next-door to the City Wall Site. We'll then continue on to the SH History Museum in Pudong.

Location: Museum is in Lujiazui, Pudong district, in the basement of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower. <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:

Tuesday, October 1: No class. National Day.

Week 5

Tuesday, October 8: Internal Pressures: Rebellion

Theme: Taiping period in SH

Readings:

handout on modernization theory

Catherine Yeh. "Playing with the Public: Late Qing Courtesans and Their Opera Singer Lovers." From *Gender in Motion*, Chap. 6.

Week 6

Tuesday, October 15: Reform and Self-Strengthening

Themes: What role did foreigners play in the city in this period?

How is SH changing during this period?

Reading:

Karl Gerth. "Shanghai Fashion: Merchants and Business as Agents of Urban Vision." From *Cities in Motion*, Chap. 6.

Begin Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century*, pp. 1-66.

First essay is due in class.

Week 7:

Tuesday, October 22: Fall of the Qing; The Rise of the Republic

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

Reading:

Continue Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century*, pp. 67-185.

Field Study: Saturday or Sunday, October 26 or 27, 2-5 pm

Shikumen Museum at Xintiandi and the CCP First Meeting Sight

Theme: Every day life in the city and the impact of class

Week 8:

Tuesday, October 29: The New Culture and May Fourth Movements

Themes: SH modernity, radicalism, bourgeois culture

Reading:

Jeffrey Wasserstrom. "The May Fourth Movement." From *Student Protests...the View from SH*, Chap. 2.

Susan Glosser. "'The Truths I Have Learned': Nationalism, Family Reform, and Male Identity in China's New Culture Movement, 1915-1923." From *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, Chap. 4.

Selected May Fourth literature

Week 9:

Tuesday, November 5: Urban party politics; rise of the CCP

Themes: SH as a breeding ground for radical politics

Reading:

Finish Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights*, pp. 189-322.

Second essay is due.

Week 10:

Tuesday, November 12: 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:

Brian G. Martin, "The Green Gang and the Guomindang State: Du Yuesheng and the Politics of Shanghai, 1927-1937" in *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Feb. 1995) 64-92.

Gail Hershatter. "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity: Prostitution in Early-Twentieth-Century Shanghai." From *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, Chap. 7.

Lawrence Kessler. "Reconstructing Zhou Enlai's Escape from Shanghai in 1931: A Research Note." *Twentieth-Century China*, Volume 34, Number 2, April 2008, pp. 112-131.

Week 11

Tuesday, November 19: Occupied Shanghai and World War Two (1937-1945)

Themes: Japan and new heights of imperialism; WW2 begins in Shanghai; a divided city; the end of the concessions

Reading:

Allison Rottmann, "Crossing Enemy Lines: Shanghai and the Central China Base." From *In the Shadow of the Rising Sun*.

Allison Rottmann, "Mao Liying, a CCP Wartime Martyr"

Suggested viewing pleasures: The 2007 film called "Nanking" (南京); Lu Chuan's 2009 "City of Life and Death"; or Ang Lee's "Lust, Caution" from 2007.

Field Study: Saturday or Sunday, November 23 or 24,

The Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery and the former GMD prison at Longhua
Also, we will visit Longhua Temple, a large, old, active Buddhist temple.

Week 12:

Tuesday, November 26: Explaining the Fall of the Guomindang Government

Theme: What role did SH play in the GMD's demise?

Readings:

Frederic Wakeman, Jr., "Licensing Leisure: the Chinese Nationalists' Attempt to Regulate Shanghai, 1927-49." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Feb. 1995), pp. 19-42.

Third essay is due.

Week 13:

Tuesday, December 3: The 1950s: Now the Revolution

Theme: Cleansing a City with a Tarnished Past; Campaigns (*yundong* 运动)

Reading:

Zhang Jishun. "Thought Reform and Press Nationalization in Shanghai: The *Wenhui* Newspaper in the Early 1950s." *Twentieth-Century China*, Volume 35, Number 2, April 2010, pp. 52-80.

Week 14

Tuesday, December 10: The Cultural Revolution

Readings:

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

From *Policies of Chaos*

Perry and Dillon. "'Little Brothers' in the Cultural Revolution: The Worker Rebels of Shanghai." From *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities*.

Nien Cheng. *Life and Death in Shanghai*. Selected pages.

Week 15

Tuesday, December 17: Post-reform Shanghai

Theme: From Socialist Modernity to Shanghai Modernity?

Readings:

Wen-hsin Yeh, *Shanghai Splendor*, "Epilogue: The Return of the Banker." pp. 205-17

Wang Anyi. *Song of Everlasting Sorrow*. Chapter 1.

Friday, December 20: TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE

Your final is due by midnight, sent to the professor 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