Boston University  
Spring 2017  

HI 364: Introduction to Modern Chinese History  

Professor Eugenio Menegon  

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 11:15-12:05  
Location: CAS 324  

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 1:00 – 2:30 pm  
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: 7% of the grade), responses to readings and maps/tests (15% of the grade), a midterm exam (25%), a short paper (4-5 pages, 25% of the grade), and a final examination (25% 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.**

**EXTRA CREDIT EVENTS & RESPONSES:**

During the semester the Instructor will inform students about selected on-campus events organized by the BU Center for the Study of Asia, the Pardee School, and other BU units. Students who attend such events and send a short analytical paragraph on them can earn extra credit for participation & responses.

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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, March 3, 2017

**PAPER DUE in class:** Monday, April 3, 2017

**FINAL in class:** Friday, May 12th, 2017, 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](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. EXCEPTIONS ONLY FOR CLASS-RELATED GROUP ACTIVITIES.**

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**BOOKS**

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

**Required Books:**


**Recommended Book:**


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.

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**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.

1. LATE MING TO HIGH QING

• **Week 1 (January 20): Class Introduction & the Ming-Qing Transition**

Introduction: Issues in Modern Chinese History; Late Ming

**Readings:** Textbook, Ch. 1

• **Week 2 (January 23, 25, 27): The Manchu Conquest and the Early Qing Period (Shunzhi and Kangxi Reigns)**

The Manchu Conquest; Qing Consolidation

**Readings:** Textbook, Chs. 2-3; Sourcebook, Ch. 1, doc. 1.8, Song Maocheng: The Tale of the Ungrateful Lover; 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 30, February 1, 3): 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 6, 8, 10): 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 13, 15, 17): 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 21 [Tuesday], 22, 24): 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 Dianshi Pictorial”; 10. 5 & 10.6, Boxer Memoirs

• Week 7 (February 27, March 1, 3): 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, March 3: MIDTERM IN CLASS

MARCH 4-12: SPRING RECESS
III. REPUBLICAN CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

• Week 8 (March 13, 15, 17): The New Republic and the May Fourth Era Intellectual Trends

Political Experimentations with Democracy; The May Fourth Era Intellectual Trends


• Week 9 (March 20, 22; NO CLASS on Friday, March 24): The Nationalist Party’s Ascent


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

• Week 10 (March 27, 29, 31): 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 April 3: PAPER ON RED SORGHUM DUE in hard copy in class and by e-mail.

• Week 11 (April 3, 5, 7): 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 10, 12; NO CLASS on Friday April 14): A New Society

Social, Economic and Intellectual Engineering in the 1950s

• **Week 13 (NO CLASS on Monday April 17 [PATRIOTS’ DAY]; April 19, 21)**
  The Cultural Revolution and Opening to the World

  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 (April 24, 26, 28)**: Economic Reforms, Political Limits, and Global China

  The Four Modernizations; The Primacy of Economy; From the 1989 Tian An Men Incidents to Charter 08 and the 2008 Beijing Olympics


• **Week 15 (May 1, 3)**: China Today and the Search for Modernity

  **Readings** to be arranged

  **FINAL EXAMINATION**: Friday, MAY 12th, 2017, 12:30 - 2:30 PM