



## **SHGH HIST 3356 Modern Chinese History**

### **CAPA Shanghai Program East China Normal University**

#### **Course Description**

This course is designed to give an introduction to the history of modern China from the Qing dynasty to the present, and to understand the continuities and the changes that help to shape Chinese society and the Chinese nation today. The course is divided into three segments. The first segment focuses on the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), the last flowering of the traditional Chinese world order, and moves from there through the long years of disintegration and the final collapse of the old empire. The second segment analyzes the great Chinese revolution (1912-1949)—in both the Nationalist and Communist phases—that has been one of the most significant episodes in the history of the 20th-century world. The third segment discusses the legacies of the Chinese revolution in the post-1949 period, which profoundly influenced and will continue to influence the political, economic, cultural, and social developments of contemporary China.

#### **Requirements and Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

#### **Developmental Outcomes**

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

#### **Class methodology**

1. The format of this course consists of lectures, discussions, film-viewing, in-class quizzes, and reading primary historical documents. The class will meet once a week in two sessions. Normally I will give a lecture in the first session, followed by an in-class discussion or film-watching in the second one. Sometimes, the pattern will change in order to meet the needs of the course material. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments to obtain background knowledge of the lecture topics. In addition to the lectures and texts, the course also makes use of media materials, especially documentary slides and movies, to provide a direct view of China.
2. There are no prerequisites in this course. Students are expected to do the reading prior to discussion, and to do it in a way that will enable them to raise critical questions. I have opinions on many of the subjects to be discussed and will try to make my biases clear throughout. But students do not need to agree with my views, indeed they are invited to take issue with them and will not be penalized for doing so.
3. There will be a mid-term examination, 4 quizzes, 4 book review papers (3 to 4 pages in length), and a final examination. In addition to these arrangements, there will be other class assignments, including oral presentations and participation in class discussions. Assignments in this category may be given at any time the instructor sees appropriate or necessary.
4. The university-approved classroom regulations and rules shall be strictly observed. For example, regular class attendance is mandatory. Proper and legitimate evidence must be presented to the instructor for any absence either before or within 48 hours after the class. No make-up examinations will be given unless a legitimate reason for absence is presented to the instructor. Students who have more than 4 unexcused absences will not pass the course. Tardiness and halfway exits will be regarded as disrespect for others and will be documented as un-granted absences.

5. Since this syllabus is worked out in advance as a guide to the course, I reserve the right to modify it from time to time during the semester based upon my assessment of class ability and progress. Should a change have to be made, an announcement will be given in advance.

6. Your final grade will be based on the following:

Mid-term examination	15%
Final examination	40%
Short papers	20%
Quizzes	20%
Class Performance	5%

7. Final grade conversions:

A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92.9%	B+ = 86.7-89.9%	B = 83.4-86.6%
B- = 80-83.3%	C+ = 76.7-79.9%	C = 73.4-76.6%	C- = 70-73.3%
D+ = 67.7-69.9%	D = 63.4-66.6%	D- = 60-63.3%	F = -59.9%

## **Course Materials**

### **Required Readings:**

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*. Norton, 1999  
Ida Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han*. Stanford University Press, 1967  
Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, Touchstone; Reprint edition, 2003  
Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*. New York, Penguin Books, 1997  
Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*. New York, Vintage Books, 1984

## **Weekly Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

Introduction to Syllabus: Major Issues of Modern Chinese History Concerned  
**Movie: *Last Emperor* (Part 1, Director: Bernardo Bertolucci, 1987)**  
Start Reading: Ida Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han*.

### **Week 2:**

Rise of the Manchus  
Readings: Spence, pp. 3-116.

### **Week 3**

China and the Outside World  
Readings: Spence, pp. 117-166.

### **Week 4 (no class due to the national holiday break)**

### **Week 5**

The Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace and the Second Opium War  
Readings: Spence, pp. 167-222.  
**Quiz # 1; Paper #1 due.** Start reading Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*

### **Week 6**

The First Sino-Japanese War and the Boxer Uprising  
Readings: Spence, pp. 222-242.

### **Week 7**

The 1911 Revolution and the May Fourth Movement  
**Quiz # 2; Paper #2 due.** Start reading Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanjing*  
Readings: Spence, pp.243-308.

#### Week 8

The Birth of the CCP and the First United Front  
Readings: Spence, pp. 308-341.  
**Field Trip to the CCP Museum**

#### Week 9

**Midterm Exam (class time)**

#### Week 10

The Nationalists in Power and the Second Sino-Japanese War  
Readings: Spence, pp. 342-458.  
**Movie: *Nanking* (Documentary)**

#### Week 11

The Civil War and the Birth of the People's Republic of China  
Readings: Spence, pp. 459-513.  
**Quiz #3; Paper # 3 due.** Start reading: Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*

#### Week 12

The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution  
Readings: Spence, pp. 514-586.

#### Week 13

China Reentering the World  
Readings: Spence, pp. 589-704.  
**Quiz #4; Paper # 4 due**

#### Week 14

**Final Exam (class time)**

### **Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities**

**Attendance:** CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

**Missing classes for medical reasons:** If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, you must send an e-mail to let the Director of Academic Affairs (DAA) or Resident Director know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_. Note that calling the CAPA Center (\_\_\_\_\_) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity:** A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

**Use of electronic equipment in class:** All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

**Use of Electronic Translators:** In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

**Late Submission:** Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

**Behavior during Examinations:** During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.