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Course proposal History of Modern China

I. Catalog Description

Hist 334 History of Modern China

3 class hours 0 lab hours 3 semester hours (3c-01-3sh)

Prerequisites: none

The history of China from the late Ming to the present. The Late Imperial political economic and social systems and the problems they faced in the 19th century. Reforming China from Self-Strengthening to Mao. Revolutionary society and its discontents. The Reform era and China today

II. Course Objectives

Students will-

- -learn the major themes of modern Chinese history.
- -learn the major historiographical themes in the study of modern China and reach the point where they are able to engage critically with both primary sources and the secondary literature.
- -learn to work with and analyze primary and secondary historical sources
- -understand the complex relationships between the dominant groups in Chinese society and non-dominant groups including ethnic minorities, women, and peasants.

III. Course outline

Total of 41 hours of classroom instruction, 1 hour for mid-term exam, 2 hour final exam

A. The world of the Qianlong emperor 4 hours

Ways of looking at modern China, periodization and such. Emperor and elites. Merchants and economy. Peasants and farmers.

- -How do Chinese and western historians periodize modern China?
- -Does it matter that the Qing emperors were Manchus?
- -What is the difference between a shi, an official and a merchant? How were these categories changing in the Late Imperial period?
- -What is a peasant? Were there any peasants in China?

B. Decline and change 3 hours

Forces of disorder, Uprisings and secret societies. The shi: statecraft and local society. Autoorganization.

- -When did the Qing dynasty start to decline? What does that mean?
- -How did ordinary Chinese express their unhappiness with life? How did the state respond to this?
- -How did members of the Chinese elite understand and react to the changes that were going on?

C. Opium and war 3 hours

The foreigners and their empires. Opium and China. Failure and rebellion.

-Who were the foreigners and what did they want from China?

- -Was the First Opium War the beginning of Modern China?
- -Was opium a good thing for China or a bad thing?

D. Taipings and dynastic decline 3 hours

Hakka and Bendi and the meaning of insanity. Taipings and the many narratives of Chinese history.

- -Were the Taiping a result of the opium war? Why were they defeated?
- -Why did the Taiping appeal to ordinary Chinese?
- -Who helped the court to get rid of the Taiping? How was the dynasty different when they were gone?

E. Tongzhi and westernization 3 hours

Tongzhi and self-strengthening, Missions and treaty ports. Self-Strengthening and provincial reform

- -How is Self-Strengthening connected to the Tongzhi restoration? Which of them was more successful?
- -What is a treaty port? Who controlled them and why do they matter?
- -Provincial officials like Li Hongzhang and Zhang Zhidong are regarded by some today as Chinese national heroes. How would they think of this assessment?

F. Boxers and 1911 3 hours

Boxers, Social Darwinism and carving the melon. The New Policies, Sun Yat-sen Yuan Shikai and the reasons for warlordism.

- -Were the Boxers lunatics or patriots?
- -What did the various post-Boxer responses to China's crisis have in common?
- -How important was Sun Yat-sen in the revolution of 1911, and why did he not become president of the Chinese Republic?
- -Why did central power collapse after Yuan Shikai's death? Was Yuan the first warlord?

G. May Fourth 3 hours

China's crisis. The world of the new youth. Bai hua, science, and democracy. Confucius and Communism. Women and revolution.

- -What was wrong with China and how were vernacular poems supposed to save it?
- -Were the May Fourth students all that different from there parents? Why?
- -Why was Communism so important intellectually for the May Fourth generation?

H. Canton, the Northern Expedition, and Nanjing 3 hours

Sun Yat-sen's Canton government, Russian aid and the first United Front. Two Leninist parties, the Nationalists and the Communists. Northern Expedition and re-unification.

-Why was Sun Yat-sen able to bring together so many disparate elements in Canton. How important were Sun's legacy and

Russian material and organizational aid to the success of the Northern Expedition?

-Who supported the Nanjing government? Why?

I. Jiangxi and Yennan 3 hours

Jiangxi Soviet, land reform and divorce. Long March, the Yennan way and Chen Yong-fa -How important were Mao's leadership and thought to the success of the CCP?

-Were the Communists radically different from the Nationalists in their goals and methods?

-Why did the Communists win? What relative importance would you give to their social policies, war and nationalism,

organizational ability of the CCP, Nationalist incompetence, pure luck, etc.?

J. Nanjing and Tokyo 3 hours

Chiang Kai-shek, the split with the Communists and with the Left Guomindang. Chiang's version of Sun's vision. Gradual unification and the Japanese threat.

- -Was the Nanjing government succeeding or failing in creating a new China when the war began in 1937?
- -What did the Japanese want in China? Why did this lead to war?
- -What kind of a war was this? What problems and opportunities did it present for Chinese?

K. Liberation of China 3 hours

Ichigo and the end of the war. Early policies of the CCP. Continuation of the united front. Korean war and China's international position. Move towards collectivization in agriculture and industry.

- -Was Communist victory in 1949 a military victory or a revolutionary victory?
- -How did the CCP balance its goals of economic reconstruction and socialist transformation in the pre-Leap period?
- -What did the Chinese do with the Soviet model?

L. Leaping and Revolting 3 hours

The Great Leap and the famine. Cultural Revolution

- -How is the Leap related to the CR? How are they both related to the Soviet Union?
- -Why did Chinese people loose faith in Mao? In the Party?

M. Deng and the Reforms 3 hours

Deng and cats. Tiananmen. After Tiananmen. The old and new Chinese economies and Greater China

- -Is socialism with Chinese characteristics really capitalism?
- -What parts of Chinese life have been changed by reforms and which have not?
- -What were the Tiananmen demonstrators after? Have these things come to pass since 1989?

IV. Evaluation Methods

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Quizzes and other assignments 10%

Students will get quiz points for in-class work and also for reaction papers on individual readings or movies.

Book Review on Cohen 20%

Presentation and paper on Wang 20%

Mid-term 25%

Short answer and essay

Final Exam 25%

Short answer and essay

Attendance policy: Students are expected to attend class, but are also assumed to be adults. Thus attendance will not be taken, and there will be no punishment for not attending class beyond the lower grades on exams that inevitably result from not attending class. Students with an excused absence can request make-up exams or turn in assignments late. Other late assignments will be graded down one mark a day (A+ becomes an A, etc.)

V. Required textbooks, supplemental books and readings

J.A.G. Roberts. *A Concise History of China* Cambridge: Harvard University Press U.P., 1999. Paul Cohen. *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth* New York: New York: Columbia University Press University Press 1998.

Wang Zheng. Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories. Berkeley: University of California Press U.P. 1999.

Alan Baumler. Opium and Modern China: A Reader. Michigan U.P. 2001

Rae Yang. Spider Eaters: A Memoir. Berkeley: University of California Press U.P., 1998

VI. Special resource requirements

none

VII. Bibliography

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- -Schoppa, Keith. *The New York: Columbia University Press Guide to Modern Chinese History*. New York: New York: Columbia University Press University Press 2000.
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- -Naquin, Susan and Evelyn Rawski. *Chinese Society in the Eighteenth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987.

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- -Bartlett, Beatrice. *Monarchs and Ministers: The Grand Council in Mid-Ch'ing China, 1723-1820.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.
- -Kuhn, Phillip. Soulstealers: The Chinese Sorcery Scare of 1768. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.
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in Seventeenth-Century China. New Haven: Yale University Press,, 1979.

-Will, Pierre-Etienne. Bureaucracy and Famine in Eighteenth-Century China. trans. Elborg Forster. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990.

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- -Chang, Hao. Chinese Intellectuals in Crisis: Search for Order and Meaning (1890-1911). Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- -Elman, Benjamin. From Philosophy to Philology Intellectual and Social Aspects of Change in Late Imperial China. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.
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- -Rowe, William. Saving the World: Chen Hongmou and Elite Consciousness in Eighteenth Century China. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001.
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- -Ching, Leo T.S. *Becoming Japanese: Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
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Popular Culture

-Kraus, Richard. Pianos and Politics in China: Class, Nationalism and the Controversy over Western Music. Oxford: Oxford University Press,, 1989.

-Zha Jianying. China Pop: How Soap Operas, Tabloids, and Bestsellers Are Transforming a Culture. New York: New Press, 1995.

Gender

-Johnson, Kay Ann. Women, the Family and Peasant Revolution in China. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

-Stacey, Judith. Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1983

-Wolf, Margery. Revolution Postponed: Women in Revolutionary China. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1985.

Economic History

-Ikels, Charlotte. The Return of the God of Wealth. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1996. -Solinger, Dorothy. Chinese Business Under Socialism: The Politics of Domestic Commerce,

1949-1980. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.

Contemporary China

-Baum, Richard Burying Mao. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000

-Brownell, Susan. Training the Body for China: Sports and the Moral Order in the People's Republic. Chicago U.P. 1999

-Yan Sun. The Chinese Reassessment of Socialism 1972-1992. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996

-Zheng Yi Scarlet Memorial: Tales of Cannibalism in Modern China. New York; Westview 1996

Course Analysis Questionnaire

Section A: Details of the Course

A1 This course is intended as an elective for History majors. It will be one of several courses which will fulfill the departmental Non-Western requirement. It is also intended for students in other majors who are interested in China, and will carry university Non-Western and Liberal Studies credit.

- A2 This course requires no changes in existing courses.
- A3 This course was offered as a Special Topics 481 class in Spring 2002.
- A4 This will not be a dual-level course
- A5 This course will not be offered for variable credit

A6 This course is offered at many institutions. Examples include University of Illinois, Stanford: Stanford University Press University, Cambridge: Harvard University Press University, and University of Pittsburgh.

A7 This course is not connected to any outside agency

Section B: Interdisciplinary Implications

- B1 This course will be taught by one instructor
- B2 This course is not related to courses in any other department
- B3 Seats will be made available to Continuing Education students

Section C: Implementation

- C1 Faculty resources are adequate. The course will be taught by the same faculty member who is currently teaching it as a 481. 481 will be taught less frequently because of this.
- C2 Although increased library holdings would be very helpful, no new resources are needed. No equipment, supplies or travel are required, and space is adequate.
- C3 No grant funds are involved
- C4 The course will be offered about every other year
- C5 One section
- C6 30 students
- C7 No professional society recommends any limits.

Section D: Miscellaneous

Liberal studies IV

- A. This course will be taught in a single section by a single instructor.
- B. The course will deal with ethnic and racial minorities at several points. The Qing dynasty was controlled by an ethnic minority, the Manchus, and we will look at both the creation of Manchu identity and the multi-ethnic nature of the Manchu empire. At the end of the Qing creating a unified Chinese ethnic identity becomes an important theme. Cohen's book deals with this at some length, as do some of the readings in Baumler. We will also look at the Communists' attempts to privilege class identities over racial and ethnic ones, (the theme of Yang and Wang's books) and the problems this has created.

Women's liberation was vital to all 20th-century Chinese reformers, and while we will discuss how oversimplified their views of traditional women were, we will use the experience of women to understand China's revolutions. Each student will write and present on one of the narratives in Wang Zheng's book. Rae Yang's book also deals with gender issues.

- C. Students will read Cohen, Yang, and at least one section from the Wang book.
- D. It is assumed that this course will draw Asian Studies minors with little familiarity with historical method, as well as other non-majors. Almost all students will have had HI 195. The course will introduce students to the distinction between primary and secondary sources and train them in the use of both. Each student will work with historical monographs and learn how to critique author's use of historical evidence through their book reviews. In-class discussions of short primary sources will introduce students to their use.