



History 508-247: Modern China, 1800 to Present
Professor Xun LIU

In the past three decades or so, we have seen China emerging on the world stage as a global power and rival to the United States. How did China come to be so powerful and influential? What enabled China to overcome her major huddles in her ascendance as a world power? What future challenges does it have to face as it enters 21st century? Where is China going as it establishes its global power and presence?

This survey course seeks answers to these questions by exploring China's recent past. We will in this survey course on modern China trace several major historical trajectories that have led to the rising China today: the decline and demise of the Qing empire, rising Chinese nationalism, and modern state-making, social revolution, political reforms and modernization, women and gender in the context of the evolving tension and continuity between tradition and modernity.

We will pay particular attention to the evolving relationship between the state and the individuals, especially intellectuals, the social and economic change of the rural and urban society, the life and status of women and gender relations, and the changing relationship between the modern state and religion in China's long and continuous transformation from an old empire to a global power. We will examine how China's processes of modernization have been shaped by both indigenous traditional and western systems of values, ideas and institutions.

This course is organized around lectures, reading, writing, and viewing assignments, and in-class discussions. Since we will be spending a lot of time discussing reading and viewing assignments in class, it is essential that you complete all your reading assignments before joining the class.

Textbooks:

- 1) John King Fairbank, *The Great Chinese Revolution*
- 2) Elizabeth Perry and Mark Seldon, eds. *Chinese Society: Change, Conflicts, and Resistance.*
- 3) Occasional reading packets to be delivered thru emails.

Feature and documentary films: To be delivered via Rutgers Libraries Streaming Service

Grading:

Attendance/Discussion	15 %
Written response (5)	15 %
3 Tests: (1@10%, 1@15%, and 1@20%)	45 %
Final exam	25 %