

***History 508-247: Modern China, 1800 to Present***

Professor Xun LIU

Email: [xmgnyz@gmail.com](mailto:xmgnyz@gmail.com); [xunliu@history.rutgers.edu](mailto:xunliu@history.rutgers.edu)

**Spring, 2022**

**Van Dyck Hall 224**

**Course Syllabus:**

Office Hours: WebEx Personal Room

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Course materials**

- 1) John King Fairbank, *The Great Chinese Revolution*, (paperback edition)  
NY: Harpers Perennials, 1987—2009, ISBN:006039076X (pbk.) @RU online Books
- 2) Elizabeth Perry and Mark Seldon, eds. *Chinese Society: Change, Conflicts, and Resistance*.  
Routledge, 2010. 0415560748 (pbk.); 9780415560740 (pbk.); 0203856317 (ebk.)  
9780203856314 (ebook) @RU online Books
- 6) Occasional reading packets to be delivered thru emails or in Modules in Canvas.

**Documentaries/Film**

1. China's Revolution (3 parts, 1997-2007), PBS Productions.
2. A Girl From Hunan (1986), Xie Jin
3. Devils at the Doorsteps (2000) Jiang Wen
4. Lust, Caution (2004) Lee Ang
5. The Road Home (2001)
6. Blind Shaft (2004), Li Yang
7. China Blue (2005) Micha Peled
8. How China Got Rich (2019) or China: Power and Prosperity (2019)

**Grading:**

Attendance	10 %
Discussion/Participation	15 %
Written response (4@5% each)	20 %
3 Tests: (10% each)	30 %
Final exam	25 %

**Course Requirements:**

**Because this is a course with intensive reading, discussion and writing assignment, I do require of you the following:**

1. Complete all the reading, and especially the Written Responses (WR) on time! WRs are due in Canvas. Try not to miss any. They count toward the Final Grade
2. Attend the class regularly and on time. You are allowed 3 absences for personal, medical and other emergencies. Avoid unexcused absences which cut into your grade.
3. There are 4 scheduled class discussion sessions. Make sure to be involved and participate actively in them. Speak up in class when you have questions or comments.
4. Check your Rutgers email and Canvas accounts regularly to know what is going on with the course.

**\*\*\*Please feel free to come and see me during the semester about anything of concern or interest regarding the class. Please notify me if you have any problems or issues that affect your performance and progress in the course. I will do my best to help you.**

**\*\*\*If you have any learning disabilities or severe medical conditions which affect your academic performance, please inform me in private in your first attendance. Don't wait until you actually run into problems. I will keep your personal information in strict confidence, and make special arrangements to facilitate your learning in my class.**