CIEE Global Institute – Shanghai

Course name: Modern Chinese History
Course number: EAST 3003 SCGC / HIST 3001 SCGC
Programs offering course: Shanghai Accelerated Chinese Language, Shanghai Business, Language and Culture, Shanghai China in a Global Context
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
The first half of this course will survey chronologically the various eras of modern Chinese history, ranging from the late-Qing to Hu Jintao. The second half will build on the first half by focusing on the historical developments that have taken place in modern China in the areas of economic development; historical and dialectical materialism; crime and capital punishment; women, gender and sexuality; health and environment; international relations; and non-mainstream perspectives.

Many questions will be raised in class discussion, such as: “What were the major causes of the collapse of the Qing Dynasty?”, “What was the May 4th Movement and how did it shape modern Chinese?”, “What were the social and political forces that culminated in civil war?”, “What was the nature and significance of China’s nascent 20th century nationalism?”, “What was the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution and how did they shape Chinese history?”, and “Despite all the changes in China over the last century, how does the past continue to influence the present?”

Learning Objectives
Students will begin to create or, more likely, substantially add to their knowledge and understanding of China’s turbulent modern history as a means for better understanding China’s present and emerging future.

Course Prerequisites
None.

Methods of Instruction
The course will rely primarily on lecture, discussion, and assigned readings, and will include a midterm exam and final exam. Lectures will be complemented with PowerPoint and other contemporary instructional aides. **Students are not expected to complete all of the readings—this would be unreasonable if not impossible—but instead, they are encouraged to sample each and focus on those that enrich the historical narratives they deem most compelling and interesting.**

The purpose of lecture and discussion is to bring these various narratives together in a sensible, student-driven, instructor-guided way.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Class Participation 20%

1
2. Fieldtrip Report 20%
3. Special Topic Report 10%
4. Midterm 20%
5. Final Exam 30%

**Course Requirements**

**Class Participation**
Students are expected to arrive prepared for each class, including the fieldtrip, to have completed the assigned readings in advance, and to remain for the entire duration of each class. Since class preparation and active participation in class are very important to an effective learning community, this will represent 20% of the final grade. Any student who due to unexcused absences misses more than four classes may receive a grade of F and lose credit for the course. Late submissions are not permitted. Active participation includes asking questions, participating in discussion, and helping to drive the course forward in a meaningful way. Each unexcused absence reduces the final course grade by 3 points.

**Fieldtrip Report**
Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the Fieldtrip Report is based on two site visits conducted in Shanghai, one to the First Party Congress Museum, the other the Propaganda Poster Art Center. The report will follow standard academic formatting and consist of between 2000 and 3000 words. It should have three clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of the two museums; 2) discuss their points in common and their differences; and 3) offer a critical discussion/reflection on the museums, their subjects and their points of view. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. The report is due within two weeks sessions of the scheduled museum visits.

**Special Topic Report**
Worth 10 points, i.e., 10% of the final grade, the Special Topic Report related to modern Chinese history. The student chooses a special topic related directly or tangentially to one of the daily class topics (e.g., foot binding during the Qing Dynasty, the what happened to the Gang of Four after they were deposed, what developments have affected LGBTQIA in China, etc.) below and prepares a report following standard academic formatting and consisting of between 1000 and 1500 words. It should have three clearly marked parts with subheadings: 1) an introduction and overview of topic; 2) a discussion of how this topic relates to other developments, both contemporary and historical; and 3) at least three questions to be addressed to the class aimed at furthering discussion. The student should be prepared if asked to present the report in class. On the first day of class, each student will be assigned an individual due date to facilitate potential presentation and discussion throughout the term.

**Midterm Exam**
Worth 20 points, i.e., 20% of the final grade, the midterm will consist of one question designed to cover material discussed in class.

**Final Exam**
Worth 30 points, i.e., 30% of the final grade, the final exam will consist of two questions, each
worth 15 points. Questions will be sufficiently complex as to offer students the chance to illustrate at least eight aspects in each answer, and therefore potentially qualify for full credit. Partial credit is possible.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Part I: A Survey of Major Historical Developments from the Late Dynastic Period to the Present

**Week 2**

Historical Context: From the Shang Dynasty to the Late Dynastic Period  
*Description:* Provide a historical overview of key developments in Chinese history as a whole, with a focus on 19th century events leading up to the modern period.  
*Readings:*  
**Field trip to Propaganda Museum and the Site of the First CPC Congress**

**Week 3**

The 1911 Republic, the May Fourth Era, Japanese Invasion, the Kuomintang and the Rise of the CPC  
*Description:* Review the history of the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, the founding of the Republic of China, the rise of the Warlord Era, the May Fourth Era, Japanese Invasion, the successes and failures of the Kuomintang, and the rise of the Communist Party of China.  
*Reading:*  
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 275-513.

**Week 4**

The CPC’s Early Years to Mao Zedong  
*Description:* Provide a historical overview of the development of the CPC, the Chinese Civil War, the founding of the People’s Republic of China, and the Mao Era  
*Readings:*  
Zhu, “Memories of My Mother,” 116-120.  
Chen Yun, “Late One Night,” 114-116.  
Mao, “People’s Liberation Army Captures Nanking,”  
Week 5

The Deng and Jiang Eras

Description: Focus on the Deng and Jiang Eras of Chinese history.

Readings:

From Deng Xiaoping:

“Hold High the Banner of Mao Zedong Thought...,” 137-139.
“Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth From Facts and United as One Looking to the Future,” 150-163.
“We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds and Let...,” 166-167.
“Excerpts from Talks Given in Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shanghai,” 358-370.
“Address to the Officers at the Rank of General and Above...” 294-299.

From Jiang Zemin:

“Speech at the Rally in Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China.”
“Eulogy at Comrade Deng Xiaoping’s Memorial Ceremony,” 611-624.
“Order for the Hong Kong Garrison” and “The Handover of Hong Kong,” 633-635.

Week 6

The Hu and Xi Eras; Midterm

Description: Focus on the Hu and Xi Eras of recent Chinese history, followed by a brief review and midterm exam.

Readings:

Introduction to the Scientific Outlook on Development.
Hu, “Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism...,” 1-73.
Mahoney, “On the Chinese Dream.”

Part II: Issue-Focused Histories

Week 7

Economic Development

Description: Focus on modern historical developments concerning China’s economy.

Readings:

Zhang, “Historical Comparisons of the Two Transformations of the Chinese
Economic System.”
Bramall, *Chinese Economic Development*.

**Week 8**

Crime and Capital Punishment
*Description:* Focus on modern historical developments concerning crime and capital punishment. We will review the documentary, “Interviews Before Execution.”
*Readings:*
Sang, “Parting Shot,” 298-316.

**Week 9**

Historical and Dialectical Materialism
*Description:* Explain and contextualize the importance of historical and dialectical materialism on historical development in modern China.
*Readings:*

**Week 10**

Women, Gender and Sexuality
*Description:* Focus on modern historical developments concerning women, gender and sexuality in China.
*Readings:*
Jones, “Women, Gender, and Family Relations,” 428-472.
Johnson, *Women, the Family, and Peasant Revolution in China*.

**Week 11**  **Questioning Mainstream Perspectives**
*Description:* Provide a conclusion for the course with reference to recent, non-mainstream, “alternative histories” of China, followed by a brief exam review.
*Readings:*

**Week 12**  **Final Exam**
Course Materials
Readings

---, “Uphold the Four Cardinal Principles” (1979), Ibid., pp. 168-191.
---, “We Should Make Use of Foreign Funds and Let Former Capitalist Industrialists and Businessmen Play their Role in Developing the Economy” (1979), *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping, Vol. II*, pp. 166-167.


---, “一个西方学者眼中的‘中国梦’," 社会科学报, May 16, 2013, p. 3. (English provided).


Zheng, Tiantian. Red Lights: The Lives of Sex Workers in Postsocialist China. Minneapolis:
University of Minneapolis Press, 2009.