

HISTORY 335: MODERN CHINA

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE | FALL 2020



Dr. Chris Fobare



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Meeting Days and Times:

Monday, 4:15-6:45

Course Description

This course examines Chinese history from 1644 to the present. In addition to exploring China's efforts to maintain self-autonomy amid increasingly forceful foreign challenges, we will interrogate the social, intellectual, and economic changes set in motion by wars, rebellions, and revolutions. In the twentieth century alone, Western imperialism, rebellions, revolutions, the curse of warlordism, invasion by Japan, civil war, and a radical reconstruction of Chinese society by the Chinese Communist Party produced frequent and sudden political, economic, and social changes that are crucial to understanding China's domestic and foreign policies in the present.

Required Readings

Textbook: Johnathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Third Edition (New York: W. W. Norton Co., 2012)

Please Note: You are required to either purchase or have regular access to the 6th or 7th editions of the textbook (older editions are not acceptable because they do not reflect the same page numbers assigned for this class). All page numbers listed in the syllabus reflect the print edition of the textbook. It is not possible to pass History 111 if you do not have access to the textbook.

Additional Readings:

Janet Chen, Pei-kai Cheng, & Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*. Third Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2013).

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment only. I am happy to meet with you immediately after class or schedule a Zoom meeting on a day and time that works for both of us. If you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting, please email me days and times that work for you. In your email, please explain what you would like to discuss so we can both be prepared to have a substantive conversation.

Course Objectives

- Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and analyze the important issues and themes that have shaped modern Chinese history from the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) to the twenty-first century.
- Students will be able to identify and evaluate the internal and external threats that have defined modern Chinese history.

- Students will analyze primary sources to construct a series of persuasive essays that interrogate the key themes and events that have shaped modern China.
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking and contextual analysis skills by writing a semester-long research paper on a topic of their choice.

Course Format

The COVID-19 global pandemic has forced both educators and students to think differently about the traditional college classroom experience. This will require patience and a period of adjustment on the part of all of us. While I am sympathetic to how stressful and uncertain this moment is for a variety of reasons, this course will strive to reproduce as much of the traditional classroom experience as possible by using a variety of technologies.

Lectures: All lectures will be recorded and posted as a link to YouTube by the end of the day on the Friday prior to each Monday's class (see the course schedule below). Watching each lecture is a requirement for this course, so you should take notes and review them in preparation for our weekly discussions. Please watch each week's lecture before attending discussion. Because the lectures will be recorded and posted ahead of time, we will only meet in-person through Zoom from 5:30-6:45 for discussion. The class is organized in this fashion so that you will come to class prepared to have a more substantive discussion on the assigned textbook chapters and primary sources, but presenting lectures in this fashion will also ensure that you have continuous access to all of the lectures.

Zoom Discussion Sections: As stated above, we will meet from 5:30-6:45pm every Monday to discuss each week's assigned readings. During our discussion sections, you can pose any questions about the week's lecture or any other information for the course. A link to Zoom is available in the syllabus section of Brightspace. Please ensure that your webcam is activated and that you familiarize yourself with all of the pertinent information in the Class Discussion section of the Course Guide.



We will be learning and discussing complicated topics and issues crucial to interrogating early American history. Our class is a community of thinkers and learners, thus in order to promote open and honest discussions informed by a **factual** interpretation of the past, personal attacks, offensive language, or any other language or action that infringes on a student's ability to learn will not be tolerated in this course.

E-Mail

Feel free to reach out to me through email. Please allow a reasonable amount of time for a response. Although I check my email daily, in certain instances, it may take me up to 48 hours to respond (especially on weekends).

- **Make sure to check your Springfield College email *daily*.** Any announcements or changes to the course will be posted on Brightspace.

- **Responding to Emails:** In certain instances, I may email you directly to communicate important information or ask a question. Please respond to my email within 48 hours. This does not apply to Blackboard announcements or global emails to the entire class.
- **A Friendly Reminder:** Always check the syllabus, the instructions for assignments, or other relevant handouts before emailing with questions. If you remain unclear about course policies or requirements after consulting the relevant handout(s), feel free to email me with questions or we can schedule a Zoom meeting to clear up any confusion about requirements or expectations.

Assignments & Grade Breakdown

Participation

15% of your course grade

Attendance alone—simply logging into Zoom—does not constitute participation. Your participation grade is derived from actively contributing to discussions by making substantive comments that illustrate you have completed the assigned reading(s). Random comments or questions will not earn you a passing participation grade.

Discussion Leadership

10% of your overall grade

You are required to lead discussion once over the course of the semester. To this end, you will develop a series of open-ended discussion questions that must be submitted to me by 5:00pm on the Friday before you lead discussion. I will offer feedback on your questions. Directions and a more detailed explanation of this assignment can be found in the Course Guide.

Primary Source Analysis

55% of your course grade

Historians examine and interpret various types of primary sources that offer a lens into the past. In order to practice critical thinking and contextual analysis skills, you are responsible for three 3-5 page Primary Source Analyses. Feel free to write more than 5 pages (as long as it is relevant to the assignment). The directions and requirements for this assignment can be found in the Modern China Course Guide.

First Primary Source Analysis = 15% | Second Primary Source Analysis = 15% | Third Primary Source Analysis = 20%

Research Paper

20% of your course grade

A semester-long research paper (7-10 pages) takes the place of a final exam. Please choose a topic that interests you by November 2. Come to class prepared to share your topic, the reason(s) you selected it, why you believe the topic is relevant to the study of modern Chinese history, and a scholarly journal article or book from which you plan to include research (see the Course Guide for further details about this assignment).

Grade Scale

A	92.5-100	B-	80-83.5	D+	67-69.5
A-	90-92	C+	77-79.5	D	64-66.5
B+	87-89.5	C	74-76.5	D -	60-63.5
B	84-86.5	C-	70-73.5	F	< 59.5

Please be aware that grades represent an evaluation of the quality of work produced on assignments and exams. Under no circumstance will I entertain a request to arbitrarily alter your grade for the purpose of staying eligible for a sports team or because you need to maintain a certain GPA. Grades are earned (not given). Asking a professor to inflate your grade is highly unethical and unfair to other students in the class.

Student Responsibilities

Reading Instructions

Reading all assignment-related handouts (including the syllabus) and following the instructions for *every* assignment and exam is **required** for this class. I will not entertain requests to revise and resubmit any assignment or complete a makeup exam for failing to follow the instructions. Additionally, pose any questions about the requirements and expectations for an assignment or exam *before* submitting your work.

Policy for Extensions and Makeup Examinations

All requests for deadline extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. That said, **extensions will only be considered for emergencies or when a *reasonable* accommodation is necessary.** Please do not request a makeup exam or deadline extension because you have assignments or exams due in other classes (or because you did not realize an assignment/exam was due). Exam dates are available in the course schedule (see below), and a discussion leadership schedule will be posted in the “discussion leadership” section of Blackboard. A good way to manage the workload for the semester is to create a schedule of exam dates and deadlines for all of your classes. This can take on a variety of forms from setting reminders on your phone or scheduling alerts on your computer’s calendar program to using a paper planner to create a list of due dates.


A Note About Technology


You are responsible for addressing any technology-related problems or issues in a timely manner by visiting the IT Help Desk or submitting an IT Help Desk ticket. In the rare instance that a technology-related matter ***beyond your control*** leads to a deadline being extended, you are required to submit the assignment on or before the date and time of the extension.

Policy for Emergencies and Prolonged Absences

Contact me as soon as possible if an unforeseen emergency requires you to miss several classes (4 or more). We will work together to ensure that you stay on track in the course and complete all required assignments. I will not accommodate any request for the submission of late work if a student misses more than three full weeks of the semester (6 classes) without contacting the Vice President for Student Affairs and providing the following information:

- Name
- Student Identification Number
- Dates/anticipated duration of absence
- Reason for absences (formal documentation of illness, hospitalization, family emergency, etc.).

 In the rare instance that a documented emergency requires a prolonged period of absence or the deadline for one or more assignments to be adjusted, you remain responsible for submitting all assignments and attending class following any excused absences. Failing to attend class and submit assignments will negatively impact your grade and may lead you to fail the class.

 **Withdrawals and Incompletes:** Accruing a significant number of absences means you have not met the basic requirements established by the Department of Education to earn the credit hours awarded for completing this course. If you find yourself in a situation where it is no longer possible to attend class regularly or submit most of the assigned work, the proper course of action is to contact the Registrar's Office and **withdraw** from the course. A final grade of **incomplete** can only be granted if you have made satisfactory progress in the class and an unexpected emergency prevents you from submitting a portion of the assigned work by the end of the semester. In the rare case that an incomplete is filed with the Registrar's Office, we will work out a deadline for the submission of all remaining work that must be met or your grade will be based on the assignments submitted by deadline to fulfill the incomplete. An incomplete will not be granted for any other reason besides a documented emergency.

Academic Honesty (Cheating and Plagiarism)

Academic honesty is necessary for the free exchange of ideas. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of other people's ideas, words, and/or additional information that is not common knowledge as your own without crediting the source. Plagiarism also refers to self-plagiarism or re-purposing material you have already completed for another course or assignment. Cheating refers to giving and/or receiving unauthorized assistance in taking examinations or creating assigned or graded classwork. This includes using artificial intelligence software like ChatGPT.

There is a *zero-tolerance* policy for academic dishonesty in this course. Any cheating, including plagiarism, will result in an **F for the course.**

Absences for Athletic Events

Playing a college sport is a demanding and rewarding experience. If you are a student athlete, you must inform me of any classes you will miss due to a sporting event. To be excused from class, I require an email or some form of official documentation from your coach or another appropriate official. Please email me close to the date of your absence so we can discuss any work that needs to be made up for class.

Accessibility

Springfield College is committed to an inclusive and accessible educational environment for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations due to a disability or disabling condition (including temporary disabilities), please contact the Academic Success Center's Disability & Accessibility Services. They will work with you on an individualized, case-by-case basis to determine eligibility and develop an appropriate accommodation plan. To schedule an appointment, please call 413-748-3389 or email ASC@springfield.edu. Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the procedures outlined by Disability & Accessibility Services for determining eligibility and requesting accommodations in advance each semester and/or as needed. Accommodations cannot be provided retroactively.

Voting

The preservation of democracy depends on the active participation of citizens at the ballot box. American democracy is built on the principle that power is derived from the consent of the governed, meaning that the candidates who win elections are vested with the power to govern (make laws) by the people. The argument that voting does not matter is designed to convince potential voters to remain at home, thus giving those who do vote an outsized influence in local, state, and federal elections. The January 6 insurrection and other recent debates about the preservation of democracy remind us that democracy requires your active participation. Help preserve American democracy by voting.

Residents of Massachusetts can register to vote at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

Residents of all other states can find out how to register to vote at: <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>

- Please note that you can vote by absentee ballot if you are attending college outside of the state in which you are a resident. Learn about the process of requesting an absentee ballot at: <https://www.usa.gov/absentee-voting>.

Policy on the Distribution of Course Lectures/Materials

Whether delivered in-person, virtually, or by another means, lectures and other comments by instructors are their intellectual property. Without express written permission, student audio recording, video recording, photographing, or creating verbatim transcripts of any portion of what transpires in a course, including a class meeting held on

Zoom or another online platform, is prohibited. Furthermore, the use of any permitted recordings or transcripts is limited to their educational purpose in a course, as determined by the instructor.

- Unless otherwise indicated, all course materials, including but not limited to video recordings, audio recordings, transcripts, physical documents, electronic documents, and creative works, are the instructor's intellectual property. Course materials can be used only for individual educational purposes within the course, as defined by the instructor. Disseminating course materials to the broader public is prohibited without authorization.
- A number of websites offer students opportunities to share course materials from their classes and to access course materials posted by others. Unless another copyright holder is indicated, all hardcopy and electronic course materials are copyrighted by the course instructor, whether this is stated on given material or not. **Any sharing of course materials through a website or other means outside of the approved activity of the course as determined by the instructor and without the instructor's express written permission is prohibited and may subject the individual sharing that material to discipline pursuant to the Springfield College Student Code of Conduct.**

Course Schedule

- Any assigned readings for Monday discussions must be completed before coming to class -

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including any announcements and/or changes to class policies or the course schedule. Please speak with me if you are having a difficult time with the course!

Week 1: Course Introduction & Introduction to Chinese History

August 31	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p>Lecture: China and Its History: A Primer</p>
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Week 2: Dynastic Transitions

September 7	<p>Lecture: The Rise of the Qing</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapter 2; Documents: Chapter 2</p>
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Week 3: Manchu Consolidation

September 14	<p>Lecture: Creating Stability: Kangxi and the Problem of Yinreng</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 3 & 4; Documents: Chapters 3 & 4</p>
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Week 4: The Qing Dynasty at Its Peak

September 21	<p>Lecture: Becoming Confucian Rulers</p> <p>Reading(s) Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 5-6; Documents 5.1, 5.4, 5.6, and Chapter 6</p>
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Week 5: Disrupting the System, Part I	
September 28	<p>Lecture: The Opium Wars and Gunboat Diplomacy</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapter 7; Documents: Chapter 7</p>
ASSIGNMENT DUE Monday, September 28	<p><u>Primary Source Analysis 1</u></p> <p>Your paper is due by 11:59 pm. Please submit your essay to the Primary Source Analysis: Paper 1 submission portal.</p>
Week 6: Disrupting the System, Part II	
October 5	<p>Lecture: The Taiping Rebellion: Hong Xiuquan's Heavenly Kingdom</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapter 8; Documents: 8.1, 8.3, 8.6, 8.7</p>
Week 7: NO CLASS	
Monday, November 12	<p><u>Indigenous Peoples Day</u></p>
Week 8: Late Qing Reform Movements	
October 19	<p>Lecture: The Tongzhi Restoration</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 9-10; Documents: 9.1-9.2, 9.4, 9.6, 10.1-10.3, 10.5-10.6.</p>
Week 9: Nation Building	
October 26	<p>Lecture: Chinese Nationalisms and the 1911 Revolution</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 11-12; Documents: 11.1, 11.3-11.4, 11.6, 12.2-12.3, 12.5.</p>
ASSIGNMENT DUE Monday, October 26	<p><u>Primary Source Analysis 2</u></p> <p>Your paper is due by 11:59 pm. Please submit your essay to the Primary Source Analysis: Paper 2 submission portal.</p>
Week 10: May Fourth and Nationalist China	
November 2	<p>Lecture: The Failed Promise of the New Republic</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 13-15; Documents: 13.1-13.3, 14.1-14.4, 14.7, 15.1-15.3, 15.8</p>
Monday, November 2	<p><u>Paper Topic Due</u></p> <p>Come to class prepared to share the topic for your final research paper, the reason(s) you selected it, and why you believe the topic is relevant to the study of modern Chinese history. Finally, be prepared to share one secondary source (book or scholarly journal article) that you plan to use when writing your paper (see the Research Paper Directions in the Course Guide for further information).</p>
Week 11: World War II and the Chinese Civil War	

November 9	<p>Lecture: The War with Japan and the War Within</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 17-18; Documents: 16.2-16.3, 16.5, 16.6-16.8, 17.1-17.4, 18.2, 18.5-18.6</p>
Week 12: The People's Republic of China	
November 16	<p>Lecture: The Hundred Flowers, the Great Leap Forward, and Anti-Rightist Campaigns</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 19-21; Documents: 19.3-19.5, Chapter 20, 21.1-21.3, 21.5-21.6.</p>
Week 13: Internal Struggle	
November 23	<p>Lecture: The Cultural Revolution and Its Discontents</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 22-23; Documents: 22.1-22.2, 22.5, 22.7, 23.1-23.3, 23.6.</p>
ASSIGNMENT DUE Monday, November 23	<p><u>Primary Source Analysis 3</u></p> <p>Your paper is due by 11:59 pm. Please submit your essay to the Primary Source Analysis: Paper 3 submission portal.</p>
Week 14: China After Mao	
November 30	<p>Lecture: Deng Xiaoping and the Road to Tiananmen Square</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 24-25; Documents: Chapter 24.</p>
Week 15: From Tiananmen to Today	
December 7	<p>Lecture: The New Generation of Chinese Leaders: 1989-Present</p> <p>Reading(s): Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i>, Chapters 26-28</p>
ASSIGNMENT DUE Monday, December 14	<p><u>Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm on December 14</u></p> <p>Our Final Exam period is scheduled for 5:00pm. Please submit your final paper to Brightspace by 11:59pm. No late papers will be accepted without a documented excuse.</p>