



## **Introduction to the History of Modern China**

**Professor:** Zhang, Hui

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**Language of Instruction:** English

**Contact Hours:** 48 course hours. One course hour is 45 minutes.

**Recommended Credit:** 3

### **Course Introduction**

This course serves as a survey of modern Chinese history. It will guide the students to explore the drastic social, cultural and political transitions that took place in China in the past one and half centuries, which led to the country's current condition. Lectures and discussions will center on the introduction of general social context of different historical periods, significant incidents and events, key historical figures, as well as landmark literary texts and cultural artifacts. While generally following a chronological order, the course content will also be arranged in such a way as to address the various themes of social changes that have significant implications in the contemporary era – the reconstruction of national and ethnic identities of modern time, China's international relationships, religions and secret societies, the transformation of gender role and family relationship, changes in economic policies, as well as trends in literatures and popular cultures. Through the study of an array of texts that include historical documents, literary works, documentary and feature films, the course will provide the opportunities for the students to acquire and exercise analytical skills to critically examine materials from a wide range of sources, perspectives and media forms.

### **Course Objectives**

The students are expected to acquire in-depth knowledge of China's historical progress in the modern and contemporary era. They should obtain sophisticated understanding of the significant incidents and historical figures that impacted China's history during the modern/contemporary era. The course will also help students to develop preliminary analytical skills of historical documents and materials.



**Course Plan**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Course Introduction and An Overview of Chinese Dynasties and Geography</b>
	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>The Communication and Conflict with the West during the Reign of Manchu</b>
	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>The Taiping Rebellion and the Boxer Uprising</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>The Late Qing Intellectual Trends and Social Reforms</b>
	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>The Founding of the Republic and the Warlords Crisis of the Government</b>
	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>The New Culture Movement and The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>The War with Japan and World War II</b>
	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>The Civil War and The GMD's Establishment in Taiwan</b>
	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>The Founding of PRC and The Land Reform</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>The Great Leap Movement and The Cultural Revolution</b>
	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>The Reform Period and China's Economic Miracle</b>
	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Conclusion and Final Discussions: The Impact of Modern Chinese History on Contemporary Chinese Society</b>

**Required Textbooks**

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2013.

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2013.



Rana Mitter, *A Bitter Revolution: China's Struggle with the Modern World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. (digital copy available)

### **Course Evaluation**

<b>Midterm exam (Session 7)</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final exam (Session 14)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Group presentation: History within the City Exploration Tour</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Leading of discussions on primary material presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Class participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>