



Chaminade University of Honolulu
HI 442 01

Modern Chinese History, Politics & Culture

中國近代史

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Dates/Time: August 27, 2001 to December 14, 2001 -- Wednesdays. 2:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

Venue: Henry Hall Room 221

Text Book: *China: A New History*, John K Fairbank & Merle Goldman, Harvard University Press, 1998

Course Description: This course covers a period that precedes the China of today. It starts with a brief review of the Chinese culture, the First and Second Empires, the Ming Dynasty, then it goes through the events that brought about the demise of the Qing Dynasty. It helps students understand the challenges China faced in the 20th century including the revolution that gave birth to the Republic of China (ROC), WWII and the many internal struggles within the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Format: The course material will be presented in lectures, discussions, team activities and individual research work.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, students will be able to have a general understanding of:

1. The cultural, political and social characteristics of China as a nation.
2. The forces at work that led to the various changes in China during the Ming & Qing Dynasties.
3. China's cultural and political responses to the changes that have shaped the thinking of the Chinese people.

Class Schedule: This schedule may be changed. The lecturer will try to give prior notice.

Session	Date	Topics	Text Book (Pages)	Assignment Due
1	8/29	Introduction. Course Overview. Group formation. Assignments. Early beginnings	1-46	
2	9/5	The First Imperial Period – Influences felt even today	47-71	
3	9/12	The Second Imperial Period – “China’s Greatest Age”	83-127	
4	9/19	Ming Dynasty – “An Introverted and Non-competitive State”	108-142	IR starts
5	9/26	Early Qing Dynasty’s Successes – The zenith of Chinese power	143-232	
6	10/3	Opium War -- The long slide begins	217-205	
7	10/10	Tai Ping Rebellion – “God’s Chinese Son” on the rampage	206-253	
8	10/17	The Sino Japanese War of 1894 – The ultimate humble pie	206-253	
9	10/24	Mid-term Examination		
10	10/31	The Reform Movement – Groping for salvation The Boxer Rebellion – The Chinese “jihad”	206-253	
11	11/7	The Revolution, Warlords, etc – It all started in Hawaii	255-311	
12	11/14	WW II – Eight years of suffering and heroic endurance	312-330	Term Paper
13	11/21	PRC – “Today, the Chinese people stands up!”	331-365	IR ends
14	11/28	Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, etc. – Romantic but devastating	368-405	
15	12/5	The Four Modernizations – or “five”?	406-453	
16	12/12	Final Exam		

Evaluation: Students are graded for their active participation in class, in a team project, and achievement in individual research work.

Active participation in class	20%	Each class attendance will gain 2 %. One bonus percentage will be given for each attendance after the first 10, up to a total of 25%.
Individual Research (IR)	20%	Students select a topic and make a presentation.
Mid-term Examination	20%	A team project. See list of suggestions
Term paper	20%	Topic: See list of suggestions.
Final Exam	20%	Written

Grading **A** = 90 - 100 **B** = 80 - 89 **C** = 70 - 79 **D** = 60 - 69 **F** = 59 & less

Assignments

Individual Research Project:

Each student is expected to make a short presentation of 15 minutes with supporting visual aids, handouts, etc., on any of the following:

- 1 Any one of the following videos – “To Live”, “The Joy Luck Club”, “Farewell my Concubine”, “Shanghai Triad”, “The Last Emperor” or “The Emperor and the Assassin”. The focus should be how these films reflect life in China, not the story itself. Please consult the instructor about the focus of research if other videos are selected.
- 2 Any book on China with prior agreement of the instructor.
- 3 A record of an interview of an immigrant from China, Taiwan or Hong Kong on life in the old country and the US.
- 4 Any personalities in recent Chinese history: Dr SunYat-sen, Jiang Jiashie, Mao Zedong, Deng Xiao-ping, etc.

Group Project for the Mid-Term Examination:

Each group is required make a 20-minute presentation on one of the following topics:

- 1 The current Chinese Government including the military structure
- 2 Trade among the US, China and Taiwan
- 3 The Chinese Exclusion Act and the Taiwan Relations Act
- 4 “The Chinese Diaspora” or minorities in China
- 5 The May 4th Movement in the 1920s.
Please consult the instructor if the group wishes to select other topics.

Term paper

Students are required to submit a paper of at least 5 pages long, excluding front and back covers, the contents page and the bibliography. Suggested topics include:

- 1 Any one of the following significant events: the Opium War, the Sino-Japanese Naval Battle of 1894, the Boxer Rebellion, the Tai Ping Uprising, the 1911 Revolution; the Japanese Occupation during WWII; the Civil War 1945 – 1949, or the Cultural Revolution.
- 2 Chinese in America
- 3 Any one of the following schools of philosophy that has influenced Chinese thinking: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, etc
Please consult the instructor if the student wishes to select other topics.

NB: There are many websites with excellent material on China, past and present. Students are encouraged to use these material