

## **Hist 109B (01)/Asia 109B History of China from 1800**

**Spring 2019 – 4 units**

### **Course and Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Xiaojia Hou  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 9 AM-10:15 AM, 12-2 PM  
Wednesdays, 4:30 PM -6PM  
Thursdays, 9AM-10:15 AM  
Or by appointment  
**Class Days/Time:** TU/TH, 10:30AM - 11:45PM  
**Classroom:** DMH 163

### **Course Description**

This 4-unit course surveys Chinese history from 1800 to the present focusing on political, economic, and social changes. It looks into the geography and cultural heritage of China, its encounters with the Western powers, the efforts and the failures of modernization by reforms, the rise of Communist revolution, and dramatic transformations in politics, economy, and culture after 1949. You will be presented with a wide range of primary sources, visual materials, and documentary films.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**CLO1:** Describe and explain the major events and themes in Chinese history since 1800. **Assessed by essay questions on exams.**

**CLO2:** Describe and explain the concept of “modern” and China’s interactions with the world. **Assessed by long essay questions on the final exam, response paper, movie review and essay.**

**CLO3:** Summarize and critically analyze historical documents/novels/visual materials. **Assessed by the presentations, movie review and response paper.**

**CLO4:** Present their findings to the classmates, respond to critiques, and learn to constructively critique the work of other classmates. **Assessed by news report, class discussion and presentations.**

**CLO5:** Write historical essays with a strong thesis and clear evidence of historical thinking. **Assessed by essay questions on exams, response paper, essay proposal and essay writing.**

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbooks**

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, third Edition.

Jung Chang, *Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China*, any Edition.

### **Other Readings**

Additional documents and articles will be posted on the Canvas site, as indicated by \* in the syllabus. Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class. The tentative course schedule indicates details on the readings and the dates by which reading assignments must be completed.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. Assignments include reading the textbook, reading assigned documents, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, making oral presentations and writing multiple papers. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 8-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

## **Examination or Evaluation**

### **Exams.**

**Reading Response Paper.** You need to write one response paper (2 pages) for *The True Story of Ah Q*, discussing what kinds of Chinese characters Ah Q represented, due Feb 12.

**Movie Review,** due April 16.

**Essay Proposal.** Write a brief narrative describing your topic and how you find materials relevant to that topic. You are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor during office hours on your essay proposal, due March 26.

**Final Essay.** This essay is to illuminate aspects of life in China since 1800 (possible choices include social relations, communism, gender, wars...), building upon your proposal. It should include an introduction; historical narrative and analysis supporting your thesis; a conclusion; and a source bibliography, due May 9.

**Oral Presentation.** Each student is also required to make a 10-minute in-class presentation on most recent news on China. In reporting the news, the presenter should synthesize news stories from at least two major mass media outlets. If necessary the presenter should also provide some background information to help the class understand the story better. After each presentation there will be a short period in which the presenter responds to questions or comments from the audience.

All written assignments, with the exception of exams, must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font), and have one-inch margins. Written assignments will be graded on both content and composition.

**Grading Information**

Midterm exam	20 points
Response paper	5 points
Movie Review	5 points
Essay proposal	5 points
Essay	15 points
Final exam	30 points
Presentation	10 points
Class participation	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

**Classroom Protocol**

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking

good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Do NOT interfere with other students' learning. Do NOT chat, interrupt, pass notes, eat noisily, take calls, check messages, or text in class. Students who come and go repeatedly may be prohibited from reentering. If you have a question during class, raise your hand. There will always be time for questions and discussion at the end of the class period.

### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Course Schedule

All dates and assignments in this syllabus are subject to modification. Any changes will be announced during the class.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 24	Introduction
2	Jan 29	The Long 18 <sup>th</sup> century Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 1-5 “Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization” *
2	Jan 31	China in Crises Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 6-8 “Mid-century Rebels”*
3	Feb 5	Reforms, Treaties and New Tensions Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 9-10 “Liang Qichao on His Trip to America”*
3	Feb 7	The End of Qing Dynasty and 1911 Revolution Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 11 Chapters from <i>China in Revolutions</i> *
4	Feb 12	The New Republic and the May Fourth Movement Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 12 <i>The True Story of Ah Q</i> *  <b>Response paper due</b>
4	Feb 14	Communists in Early Years Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 13

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Mao Zedong, "Report on the Peasant Movement in Hunan"*
5	Feb 19	The Fractured Alliance Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 14 Guomindang's Laws *
5	Feb 21	Urban life in the 1930s
6	Feb 26	Guomindang in Power Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 15 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 1-2
6	Feb 28	Communist Survival Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 16 "Mao's Talks at the Yan'an Forum"* "The Fading of Wild Lilies: Wang Shiwei and Mao Zedong's Yan'an"*
7	March 5	War with Japan Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 17 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> : Chapter 3-4 Documents on the WWII*
7	March 7	The Fall of the Guomindang Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 18 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 5-6
8	March 12	Review and discussions
8	March 14	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>
9	March 19	The Birth of the People's Republic Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 19 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 7-8 Documents on the Birth of PRC*
9	March 21	China in the early 1950s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 20 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 9

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	March 26	China in the 1950s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 21 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 10-11 Documents on the Hundred Flowers Movement *  <b>Essay Proposal Due</b>
10	March 28	The Great Leap Forward and the Great Famine Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 21 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 12-13 Documents on the famine*
11	April 2	Spring Break, No Class
11	April 4	Spring Break, No Class
12	April 9	To Live
12	April 11	The Great Culture Revolution I Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 22 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 14-17 Documents on the Cultural Revolution*
13	April 16	The Great Culture Revolution II <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> , Chapter 18-21  <b>Movie Review Due</b>
13	April 18	China in the 1970s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 23 <i>Wild Swan: Three Daughters of China</i> Chapter 22-28
14	April 23	The Demise of Mao and Rise of Deng Xiaoping Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 24 Documents on the reform*
14	April 25	China in the 1980s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 25 <i>The Death Song of the River</i> , Introduction *

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	April 30	The Tian'anmen Incident, 1989 <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 26 Documents on Tian'anmen Incident*
15	May 2	China in the 1990s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 26-27
16	May 7	China in the 2000s Readings: <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , Chapter 28 Special reports on China*
16	May 9	Review and Discussion  <b>Essay Due</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	May 16	0945-1200

### Online Resources for Current Affairs in China.

- *Google News* <http://news.google.com/>
- *Financial Times - Asia* <http://www.ft.com/home/asia>
- *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/>
- *CNN Asia* <http://edition.cnn.com/ASIA>
- *BBC Asia-Pacific* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/>
- *South China Morning Post*, a Hong Kong newspaper. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/>
- *New York Times - Asia Pacific* <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/asia/>
- *People's Daily* <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/> China's official newspaper in English, presents the government versions.
- *China Digital Times* <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/> CDT is a bilingual news website covering China from cyberspace, run by overseas Chinese. It aggregates more than 100 posts a day from Chinese cyberspace, focusing especially on that which is blocked, deleted or suppressed by state censors.
- *Zao Bao* <http://english.zaobao.com> Newspaper from Singapore with selected articles and news in English. It is considered relatively neutral.
  - *The China Beat* <http://www.thechinabeat.org> A blog run by scholars who are interested in China. It provides personal yet insightful analyses on hot issues in China.