HIST 5306 / CRN: 24160
Class: Monday 4:30–7:20 pm
Office Hours: M & T 1:00–3:00 pm
Office Phone: (915) 747-8948

Professor Joshua Fan
Location: LART 309
Office: Liberal Arts 337
Email: jfan@utep.edu

Course Description:
This seminar focuses on recent English-language scholarships on modern China and gives non-specialists an introduction to major issues and events in modern Chinese history. Some of the issues and events we will examine are: changing gender and familial relations, popular religion, WWII and the Chinese civil war, ethnic identity, population control, new media, and popular protest. We will also encounter a variety of perspectives and approaches to this history such as anthropological, biographical, environmental, geopolitical, military, and oral.

Assignments:
Students will read one book per class and prepare for active class discussion. Students will write a short review essay (in the style of professional book review found in academic journals) for at least TEN of the assigned readings. Students will also take turns leading at least one class discussion during the semester, at which time the student is also responsible for preparing a list of discussion questions to be distribute via email By the Friday before class.

For students pursuing a Ph.D. in History, you are exempted from two review essays (so you only need to do 8), but you must turn in a 10-page historiographical paper that can be included in your Ph.D. portfolios. The historiographical paper is based a topic of your choice with the approval of the instructor, and it is due on the final day of class.

Grading:
Final grade is determined by the accumulation of your weekly review essays and class participation. You must turn in a review essay for at least ten of the assigned books; failing to do so, will result in 0 points for one or more of the review essays, and that 0 will be carried towards your final grade.

However, if you turned in 10 review essays, only the 7 with the highest score will count towards your final grade; leaving room for improvement. You can turn in more review essay to replace the ones with lower grade. Together the top 7 review essays will count for 70% of your overall grade.

For history Ph.D. students, your historiographical paper will count for 20% of your overall grade, and your weekly reviews will count for 50% of your overall grade.

The remaining 30% of your final grade will be based on class participation. 20% will be based on your accumulated performance during the weekly class discussion and then remaining 10% will be based on the week that you were the discussion leader. Due to the nature of a graduate seminar, ANY unexcused absence or
frequent tardiness will lower your grade. However, just being present physically without actively and responsibly contributing in discussions will not help your participation grade.

**Required Texts:** [Listed according to reading schedule]


**Lecture and Reading Schedule:**

1. Jan. 27: **INTRODUCTION:**
   Before coming to the first class, you need to finish *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*

2. Feb. 3: **APPROACH MODERN CHINA:**
   *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*

3. Feb. 10: **HISTORY AS EVENT, EXPERIENCE, & MYTH:**
History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth

4. Feb. 17: **WOMEN IN PATRIARCHAL CHINA:**
Women in China's Long Twentieth Century

5. Feb. 24: **PEASANTS AND CHINESE REVOLUTION:**
Peasants Without the Party: Grass-Root Movements in Twentieth-Century China

6. Mar. 3: **WAR AND SUFFERING:**
The Chinese People at War: Human Suffering and Social Transformation

Mar. 10–14 **SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)**

7. Mar. 17: **DOES RELIGION MATTER IN MODERN CHINA?**
The Religious Question in Modern China

8. Mar. 24: **MAKING ETHNIC MINORITIES WITH THE PRC:**
Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China

Mar. 31 **CESAR CHAVEZ DAY OBSERVANCE (NO CLASS)**

9. Apr. 7: **CHINA FROM MAO TO DENG:**
Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China

10. Apr. 14: **THE ONE-CHILD POLICY:**
Governing China's Population: From Leninist to Neoliberal Biopolitics

11. Apr. 21: **CHINA & TAIWAN:**
China’s Homeless Generation

12. Apr. 28: **THE NEW CHINESE:**
The Individualization of Chinese Society

13. May 5: **NEW MEDIA IN THE PRC:**
The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online