

# STUDIES IN WORLD HISTORY—MODERN CHINA

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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

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## 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 distributed 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 on 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 essays 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]

1. Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, *China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Oxford University Press, 2010, 192 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0195394122, **[E-book from library]**
2. Paul A. Cohen, *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*, Columbia University Press, 2010, 243 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0231151931
3. Paul A. Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*, Columbia University Press, 1998, 428 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0231106511, **[E-book from library]**
4. Gail Hershatter, *Women in China's Long Twentieth Century*, University of California Press, 2007, 170 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0520098565, **[E-book]** <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/12h450zf#page-1>
5. Lucien Bianco, *Peasants Without the Party: Grass-Root Movements in Twentieth-Century China*, M E Sharpe, 2001, 309 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1563248405
6. Diana Lary, *The Chinese People at War: Human Suffering and Social Transformation, 1937-1945*, Cambridge University Press, 2010, 246 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521144100
7. Vincent Goossaert, *The Religious Question in Modern China*, University Of Chicago Press, 2009, 480 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0226005331
8. Thomas Mullaney, *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China*, University of California Press, 2011, 256 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0520272743, **[E-book from library]**
9. Ezra F. Vogel, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China*, Belknap Press, 2013, 928 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0674725867
10. Susan Greenhalgh & Edwin Winckler, *Governing China's Population: From Leninist to Neoliberal Biopolitics*, Stanford University Press, 2005, 412 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0804748803, **[E-book from library]**
11. Joshua Fan, *China's Homeless Generation: Voices from the Veterans of the Chinese Civil War, 1940s-1990s*. Routledge, 2011, 175 pages, **[No need to buy]**
12. Yunxiang Yan, *The Individualization of Chinese Society*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2010, 288 Pages, ISBN-13: 978-1847883780
13. Guobin Yang, *The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online*, Columbia University Press, 2011, 320 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0231144216

**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*