



HIST 2654(W)
History of the People's Republic of China
1949 to the Present

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm or by appointment

Course Overview

This course surveys the history of the People's Republic of China from its founding in 1949 through the present day. The course will focus on a number of key themes as related to the political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history of socialist China. The themes include: one, the relationship between state and people; two, the ideological and political structures of socialism and their changing configurations; three, gender and class relations in socialist and post-socialist China; and, four, China's understanding of and engagement with the rest of the world. In our consideration of these themes we will be paying particular attention to historical changes and continuities across different periods of PRC history. We will also be assessing who benefits from and who bears the costs for various state projects and uses of socialism since the founding of the PRC in 1949.

Class Format

This class includes lectures, class discussion, and group presentations. Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the class by asking questions, discussing readings and viewing assignments, as well as working with classmates on group projects.

Required Books

Note: These books are available for purchase at the University of Manitoba bookstore. Other assigned readings can be found using the library resources and electronic databases.

- Maurice Meisner. *Mao Zedong: A Political and Intellectual Biography* (Polity Press, 2007)
- Rana Mitter, *Modern China, A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Timothy Cheek, *Living With Reform, China since 1989* (Fernwood Publishing/Zed Books, 2006)

Assignments

Map and Major Names Quiz #1 (date: Thursday, Jan. 21)- 5%

Written Assignment #1 (1500-1800 words, due date: Thursday, Feb. 11) – 25%

Written Assignment #2 (2000-2250 words, due date: Tuesday, April 6) – 30%

Class Participation/Group Work (date varies, see syllabus below): 10%

Final Exam (date tba): 30%

Information for the quizzes as well as instructions for the written assignments and final exam will be handed out during lectures. It is your responsibility to acquire the instructions from the instructor if you are absent when they are first made available.

Group work Guidelines: Each group will have approximately 3 or 4 students. The group will be responsible for researching and preparing a 5-minute presentation on individual(s) whose life stories help us understand the issues discussed in class, and the positive or negative impact of state policies. Guidelines will be handed out in class and the group will consult with the instructor prior to preparing for the presentation.

All work is due on the date indicated unless an extension has been obtained from the instructor *prior to* the due date. Documentation (i.e. a medical note) may be requested. Late work will be penalized by 2% per day after the due date. All term work must be submitted by the last day of class for the semester (April 8, 2010). Quizzes **MUST** be written in class on the specified day.

Term work will be returned in class and made available to students during office hours. Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will be retained for 4 months following the end of the course. After this time it will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and subject to confidential destruction.

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty (see page 29 of the University of Manitoba 2009-2010 Undergraduate Calendar). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, text, or examination is F on the paper and F on the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to 5 years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of March 19, 2010.

Marking Scale

A+ 88-100%	C+ 65-59%
A 80-87%	C 60-64%
B+ 75-79%	D 50-59%
B 70-74%	F 0-49%

Class Outline and Required Readings

Week 1:

Jan. 7 Introduction: 1949-2009, 60 Years of the PRC - How did China Celebrate?

Reading: Mitter Ch. 1; Cheek Ch. 1

On-line sources: <http://www.cctv.com/english/special/60anni/homepage/index.shtml>

Week 2: Background: From Imperial Dynasty to Republic: China in the first Half of the 20th Century

Tues. Jan. 12 The Republic of China, 1911-1949: Major Themes and Problems

Reading: Mitter Ch. 2

Thurs. Jan. 14 The Chinese Communist Party: Foundations and Ideas

Reading: Meisner Ch. 1,2,3

Week 3: "The Chinese People Have Stood Up" - Mao Zedong and the Establishment the PRC

Tues. Jan. 19 Civil War and the Beginning of the PRC

Reading: Meisner, Ch. 4; Mitter Ch. 3

Thurs. Jan. 21 National Programs and Local Realities: Land Reform in the 1950s

Reading: Meisner, pp. 108-114; 119-139

* Quiz #1: Map and Major Leaders

Week 4: Building a New China in the 1950s

Tues. Jan. 26 Alternative Social Orders: Visions and their Limits

Reading: Mitter pp. 74-81

* Group 1 Presentations: Topic – Women in the New China

Thurs. Jan. 28 International Relations and Global Order: Bandung, Sino-Soviet Relations, and ‘the West’

Reading: Meisner, *Mao Zedong*, pp. 114-119

Week 5: The Great Leap Forward

Tues. Feb. 2 Mao and the use of mass politics for economic growth

Reading: Meisner, Ch. 6; Mitter pp. 107-109

Thurs. Feb. 4 Failure, famine, and factional struggle

Week 6: From Debating Stability and Equilibrium to Making Cultural Revolution

Tues. Feb. 9 Lei Feng, the PLA, and the return of class struggle

Reading: Meisner, Ch. 7

Thurs. Feb. 11 Launching the Cultural Revolution, 1966

* Written Assignment #1 Due

February 15-19 READING WEEK BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 7: Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Tues. Feb. 23 Major themes and struggles of the Cultural Revolution

Online Viewing Assignment: <http://www.morningsun.org/>

* Group Presentations #2: Topic – Sent-down Youth

Thurs. Feb. 25 Return of the Party, ‘Normalizing’ International Relations, and the Legacy of Mao

Reading: Meisner Epilogue; Cheek Ch. 2

Week 8: “Pushing Reform and Opening Up” – Deng Xiaoping’s New Economic Direction

Tues. Mar. 2 – Making Sense of the New China.

Reading: Cheek, Ch. 3

Viewing and Discussion of *Ermo* (dir. Zhuo Xiaowen, 1994)

Thurs. Mar. 4 – “To get rich is glorious”: Changing Approaches in the 1980s

Week 9: The Fifth Modernization: Democracy Movements in the 1980s

Tues. Mar. 9 – Democracy Wall and voices for change

Reading: Mitter pp. 87-92

Thurs. Mar. 11 – 1989 Tiananmen Square

Reading: Mitter pp. 125-132

Online Viewing Assignment: Gate of Heavenly Peace Website

<http://tsquare.tv/film/gateExcerpts.php>

Week 10: Capitalist Style Economic Growth and State Control: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Tues. Mar. 16 – Aftermath of a Massacre: Political Stability and Economic Growth

Reading: Cheek Ch. 4

* Group Presentations #3. Topic: Tiananmen Square Protests, 1989

Thurs. Mar. 18 – Remaking China: Deng's Southern Tour and the New Order within China and Globally

Reading: Mitter, Ch. 5

[March 19, 2010: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal from all Fall/Winter Courses]

Week 11: "Adhering to the Important Thoughts of the Three Represents" – Jiang Zemin and the Effects of Broadening socialism's "Allies"

Tues. Mar. 23 – Urban environments and Migrant workers in the New China

Reading: Anita Chan, "Labor Standards and Human Rights: The Case of Chinese Workers under Market Socialism", *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (1998), pp. 886-904; Li Li, "China's Constitutional Amendments and Their Implications," *China Report* 41:1 (2005), pp. 75-81

Thurs. Mar. 25 – Prosperity, Inequality, and Land-based struggles

Reading: Mitter pp. 132-138

* Group Presentations #4: Topic – Labour in the New China

Week 12: "Implementing Scientific Outlook on Development" – Hu Jintao, 21st Century Chinese-style Socialism, and the dynamics of a 'Harmonious Society'

Tues. Mar. 30 – Environmental costs, challenges, and proposals for the future

Online Viewing Assignment: Yung Chang, Director of Up the Yangtze, SIFF podcast (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJWC2cGlOL8>)

Thur. Apr. 1 – Rebuilding the Capital – New Beijing /Old Beijing

Optional Reading: Michael Meyer, *The Last Days of Old Beijing* (2008)

Required Online viewing assignment: The Last Days of Old Beijing (Michael Meyers)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZNjyogkAEw>

* Group Presentations #5 – Topic: Living in New Urban and Rural Landscapes

Week 13: Making Sense of the History of the PRC at the Present Moment

Tues. Apr. 6 – Beijing 2008: Analysing the Olympics and their Meaning

Reading: Cheek Ch. 6

Online Viewing Assignment: browse official Olympic website

(<http://en.beijing2008.cn/>) and view clips from Opening Ceremonies on youtube

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ItRrO6P1W4>)

* Written Assignment #2 Due

Thurs. Apr. 8: Assessing the 60th Anniversary Celebrations: Final Thoughts and Class Review

April 12 – 28, 2009 Final Examination Period