

HIST 479 The Cultural Revolution

MWF 1:00-1:50pm Faner 1222

Dr. Qiong Zhang

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Office Hours: MWF 9:20-9:50am; 11am-12pm; 2-2:30pm

Course website: <http://www.siu.edu/~histsiu/faculty/zhang.html>

Course Description: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976 has been recognized as the darkest era in the history of the People's Republic of China. The nationwide chaos, terror, and ultra-leftist frenzy brought the Chinese society, economy, and even the natural environment to the brink of collapse, and tens of millions of ordinary people had their lives turned upside down, their psyche deeply scarred. Who started the Cultural Revolution and why? How was it possible that a chaos of such magnitude could come about and persist for so long? And what were its legacies? This course invites you to explore such questions by critically examining a wide variety of sources, including official documents, personal memoirs, oral histories, literary and artistic works, and material artifacts.

Course Requirements:

1. Mid-term and final exams: 100 points each. Exam format will be a combination of quizzes and short essays. Study guides will be given a week in advance. Please note that no make up exams will be scheduled except for documented emergencies.
2. Class participation: 100 points total. 50 points will be assigned based on your regular attendance, active and meaningful participation in class discussions, and the offer of constructive feedback on the proceeding of the course. An attendance sheet will be filled out in each class meeting. Excessive absences (more than FOUR times) will cause a reduction of your participation grade at the rate of 5 points per additional absence. Tardiness or leaving early will also be noted. The other 50 points will be assigned based on your satisfactory completion of classroom activities, including brief written responses to certain assigned readings or issues discussed in class.
Some specific requests: 1) Please make sure that you have done all the readings *prior to* the class meeting for which they are assigned; 2) Please keep your cell phone *off* and refrain from talking or snoozing (etc.) in class.
3. Two Essays (100 points total). The first essay is a 3-4 page analysis of selected primary documents. The second essay is a 6-8 page critical review of the second, third, or fourth required texts listed below. The essays are worth 40 and 60 points respectively. Specific requirements of each essay will be handed out two weeks prior to their respective due dates. Late submissions will be downgraded by 5 points per day of delay, so please mark their due dates on your calendar.

Graduate students: Please talk with me about your options in addition to or in place of the above requirements.

Grade Conversion Table:

400-365 A	312-260 C	205- F
364-313 B	259-206 D	

Statement of Academic Diversity and Honesty

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is dedicated not only to learning, research, and the advancement of knowledge, but also to the development of ethically sensitive and responsible persons. The university seeks to achieve these goals through sound educational programs and policies governing individual conduct that encourage independence and maturity. By accepting membership in this university, an individual joins a community characterized by free expression, free inquiry, honesty, respect for others, and participation in constructive change. All rights and responsibilities exercised within this academic environment shall be compatible with these principles. Acts of Academic Dishonesty is a breach of the student conduct code.

Dishonesty includes:

1. *Plagiarism, representing the work of another as one's own work;*

2. *Preparing work for another that is to be used as that person's own work;*
3. *Cheating by any method or means;*
4. *Knowingly and willfully falsifying or manufacturing scientific or educational data and representing the same to be the result of scientific or scholarly experiment or research;*
5. *Knowingly furnishing false information to a university official relative to academic matters;*
6. *Soliciting, aiding, abetting, concealing, or attempting conduct in violation of this code.*

Required Texts (The first four texts are available at the University Bookstore)

1. Michael Schoenhals, *China's Cultural Revolution, 1966-1969: Not a Dinner Party*, M.E. Sharpe, 1996;
2. Rae Yang, *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*. University of California Press, 1997;
3. Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, *Chen Village Under Mao and Deng*, University of California Press, 2nd edition, 1992;
4. Judith Shapiro, *Mao's War against Nature: Politics and the Environment in Revolutionary China*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
5. Mao, Zedong (Tse Tung), *Quotations from Mao Tse Tung* (The Little Red Book), available on line at: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/index.htm>;
6. ----, *Selected Works of Mao Tse Tung*, available on line at: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/index.htm>
7. *Some Basic Facts about China: Ten Questions and Answers* (Peking: China Publications Center, 1974), available at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/classics/lifeundermao/newchina1975.html>
8. *New China's First Quarter-Century* (Peking: Foreign Languages Press, 1975), available at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/classics/lifeundermao/newchina1975.html>
9. *New Women in New China* (Peking: Foreign Languages Press, 1972), available at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/classics/lifeundermao/newwimmin.html#p1>
10. (For graduate students only) Roderick MacFarquhar, *The Politics of China*, 2nd edition.

Disclaimer: Our use of etexts posted by certain ideologically motivated websites is strictly within the context of historical studies and does not entail any endorsement of the ideological agenda of those sites. I have personally examined, to the best of my ability, the authenticity of those texts.

Supplementary Readings:

Except for those assigned for the first weeks of classes, all supplementary readings are either from on-line sources or to be posted on Morris Library's Electronic Course Reserve. Please check the syllabus on our course website for links to related sites after the third week.

Films and Videos:

The White-Haired Girl (ballet, one of the only few model plays allowed to be performed during CR)
 Hibiscus Town (1986, feature film)
 China in a Century of Revolution (Documentary)
 Morning Sun (Documentary)

Websites:

<http://museums.cnd.org/CR/halls.html> (Cultural Revolution Museum, most materials are in Chinese)
<http://www.morningsun.org/> (a site on the origins and history of the Cultural Revolution, associated with the video "Morning Sun")

Schedule of Class Meetings and Reading Assignments (Subject to change)

1. 8/21 Course Introduction: The Cultural Revolution in Official Chinese History and Personal Memories

Unit One: Origins of and Preludes to the Cultural Revolution

8/23 The Communist Revolution and the Birth of the People's Republic of China
 8/25 Socialist Reconstruction and the First Five-Year Plan; the Anti-Rightist Campaign
Readings: 1) Handout, "China since the 1949 Revolution," chapter 7 of JAG Roberts, *A Concise History of China*, pp. 256-265; 2) *Chen Village*, chapter 1, pp. 13-24; 3) *Spider Eaters* (skim through chapters 1-5 but focus on chapter 6); 4) (Graduate students only) *The Politics of China*, chapter 1.

2. 8/28 & 30 The Great Leap Forward and the Great Famine; video clip from “China, A Century of Revolution”

9/1 Programs of Economic Restoration after the Leap; the Four Cleanups

Readings: 1) Handout, “China since the 1949 Revolution,” in JAG Roberts, *A Concise History of China*, pp. 265-278; 2) *Chen Village*, chapter 1, pp. 26-40; chapter 2 (entire); 3) Mao Zedong, “Speech at the Supreme State Conference, January 28, 1958,” in *Selected Works of Mao Tse Tung*, vol. 8; 4) *Mao's War against Nature*, chapter 2; 5) (Graduate students only) *The Politics of China*, chapter 2.

3. (No Class on Labor Day, Monday 9/4)

9/6 Mao and Maoism

Readings: (handouts) “Origins of Maoism,” Maurice Meisner, *Mao's China and After*, pp. 41-45, and selections of Mao's essays and poems

9/8 The Rise of the Mao Cult

Readings: 1) (Electronic Course Reserve) “Life and Death of Lei Feng, an Admirable ‘Fool,’” in Cheng & Lestz with Spence, pp. 417-421; 2) *Chen Village*, chapter 3, pp. 74-97; 3) *China's Cultural Revolution*, Document #14; 4) *Spider Eaters*, chapters 7-10.

Unit Two: The Cultural Revolution as a Political Event

4. 9/11 Designs and Directives of the Cultural Revolution

Readings: 1) handout, “China since the 1949 Revolution,” in JAG Roberts, *A Concise History of China*, pp. 278-288; 2) *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ## 1-4.

9/13 & 15 The Red Guard Movement; Video Clip from “Morning Sun”;

Readings: 1) *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ##5; 20; 23; 24; 36 & 68; 2) *Spider Eaters*, chapters 11-15; 3) (Graduate students only) *The Politics of China*, chapter 3.

5. 9/18 PLA and the Re-Imposition of Order; **First essay (document analysis) due in class today!**

Read *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ##6, 8, 13; 15, 16, & 35.

9/20 & 22 The Cultural Revolution in the Countryside. Read *Chen Village*, chapters 4 & 5; (Graduate students only) *The Politics of China*, chapter 4.

Unit Three: Society, Culture and Economy during the Cultural Revolution

6. 9/25 Administrative Structures of Urban and Rural Communities; *Hukou*

9/27 “Class Struggle” and Social (In)Equalities

9/29 The Sent-Down Youths: **Discussion with Guest Speaker, Ms. Jie Zhang**

Readings: 1) *Quotations from Mao Tse Tung*, section 2, “Classes and Class Struggle”; 2) Finish reading *Spider Eaters*; 3) (Electronic Course Reserve) Naihua Zhang, “In a World Together Yet Apart: Urban and Rural Women Coming of Age in the Seventies,” in Xueping Zhong, Wang Zheng and Bai Di, eds., *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing Up in the Mao Era* (Rutgers University Press, 2001), 1-26.

7. **10/2 Mid-Term Exam!**

10/4 & 6 Sexuality, Marriage, and Gender Politics

Readings: 1) *Some Basic Facts about China*, pp. 75-77; 2) *New Women in New China*, pp. 1-12, 41-67; 3) *Quotations from Mao Tse Tung*, section 31, “Women”; 4) *Chen Village*, chapter 3, pp. 90-93; 5) *Spider Eaters*, reread chapters 14 & 16; 6) reread Naihua Zhang's article from previous week.

8. 10/9 The Mao Fetish: Mao Portraits, Badges, Little Red Books, and Loyalty Songs and Dances

10/11 Destruction of the Four Olds

10/13 Revolutionary Rhetoric and Values

Readings: 1) website “Morning Sun”: Browse “Images” section and read article “World's People Eagerly Seek Chairman Mao Badges” in “Reddest Red Sun” section; 2) *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ##38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45 & 46; 3) *Quotations from Mao Tse Tung*, sections 17-21; 4) (Electronic Course Reserve) Elizabeth J Perry and Li Xun, “Revolutionary Rudeness: Language of Red Guards and Rebel Workers in China's Cultural Revolution,” in *Twentieth-Century China: New Approaches*, edited by Jeffrey Wasserstrom, pp. 221-236.

9. 10/16, 18 & 20 Science, Education, and Healthcare

Readings: 1) Mao, *Selected Works of Mao Tse Tung*, Vol. VIII, "Principle of Educating Youth, 1960"; Vol. IX: (1) the beginning passages of "Talk on Questions of Philosophy, August 18, 1964"; (2) "On Education – Conversation with the Napalese Delegation of Educationists, 1964"; (3) "Directive on Public Health, June 25, 1965"; 2) *Some Basic Facts about China*, sections on "Primary Education" and "Medical Care System"; 3) *New China's First-Quarter Century*, sections on "Revolution in Education," and "New Medical System"; 3) *China's Cultural Revolution*, Document #48; 4) Sigrid Schmalzer, "Labor Created Humanity: Cultural Revolution Science on its Own Terms," in Joseph W. Esherick *et al*, eds., *The Chinese Revolution as History*, pp. 185-210.

10. 10/23 & 25 the Fine Arts and Popular Entertainment: the Model Plays; Film Screening, "The White-Haired Girl"

(No class on Friday 10/27 due to a conference)

Readings: *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ##40 & 47;

11. 10/30 Chinese Economic Life during the Cultral Revolution

11/1 & 3 Cultural Revolution as Campaigns against Nature (I): The Dazhai Model

Readings: 1)) *Mao's War Against Nature*, chapter 3 ; 2) *Chen Village*, chapter 3, pp. 90-97 & chapter 9 (entire); 3) *Quotations from Mao Tse Tung*, sections # 19 (Revolutionary Heroism) and #21 (Self-Reliance and Arduous Struggle); 4) *New China's First Quarter Century* (section on "How China Achieves Self-Sufficiency in Grain")

12. 11/6, 8 & 10 Cultural Revolution as Campaigns against Nature (II) International Hostilities and the "Third Front"

Readings: 1) *Mao's War Against Nature*, chapter 4; 2) Barry Naughton, "The Third Front: Defence Industrialization in the Chinese Interior," *China Quarterly*, No. 115 (September 1988), pp. 351-386 (digitally available via "Jstor," Morris Library); 3) (Morris Electronic Course Reserve) Barbara Barnouin and Yu, Changgen, *Chinese Foreign Policy During the Cultural Revolution*, chapter 4, "National Security Policies."

Unit Four Memories and Reflections on the Cultural Revolution

13. 11/13 Official Verdicts and Personal Reflections on Mao and the Cultural Revolution

15 & 17 "The Literature of the Wounded"; Film Screening: "Hibiscus Town"

Readings: *China's Cultural Revolution*, Documents ## 57-60, #63; & 64.

14. *No classes this week. Happy Thanksgiving!*

15. Interpreting the Sources, Dynamics, and Legacies of the Cultural Revolution

11/27: Discussion of *Spider Eaters*

11/29: Discussion of *Chen Village* and Lynn White III's article

12/1: Discussion of *Mao's War against Nature*

Additional Reading: (Electronic Course Reserve) Lynn T. White III, *Policies of Chaos: The Organizational Causes of Violence in China's Cultural Revolution* (Princeton University Press, 1989), Chapter 1, "What the Cultural Revolution Was and Why It Happened," pp. 3-42.

16. 12/4: Society and Culture in Post-Mao Era

12/6: Commercializing Mao and the Revolution: Red Tourism in China Today

12/8: Conclusion. **Second essay (book review) due today!**

Readings: (Electronic Course Reserve) (translated Chinese texts) "From Sartre to Mao Zedong," "A Typology of MaoCraze," and "Hanging Mao," in Geremie R. Barmé, *Shades of Mao: The Posthumous Cult of the Great Leader* (M.E.Sharpe, 1996).

17. *Final Exam Week (12/11-15): Final exam date and time to be announced.*