

HSTR 265B

China and the Modern West

Spring 2020

Instructor: Prof. Zhongping Chen



A survey of modern Chinese history from 1939 to 2019, or from the beginning of China's full-scale contacts with the modern West, through its Republican, Nationalist and Communist revolutions, until its reentry into the world system as a global power.

(The syllabus below was used in spring 2019, and it is subject to revision)

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

Spring 2019

HSTR 265B A01 (CRN 21817) China and the Modern West

Instructor:	Zhongping Chen	Class schedule:	TWF 11:30 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.
Office:	Clearihue B-209	Office hours:	Wed.1:30-2:30 P.M. or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course surveys modern Chinese history from 1840 to 2018, or from the beginning of China's full-scale contacts with the modern West, through its Republican, Nationalist and Communist revolutions, until its reentry into the world system as a global power. The major purpose of this course is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of how modern China experienced historical changes yet retained cultural identities through its interactions with the West. The course will basically follow the chronological development of Chinese history in 1840-2018. However, thematic lectures, group discussions and class presentations will lead students into exploration of critical issues in China's contacts with the modern West, such as the evolution of Chinese nationalism and communism, as well as the Chinese versions of key global values like feminism, democracy, and human rights.

Required Texts:

Fairbank, John King, and Merle Goldman. *China: A New History*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.
Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Evaluation and requirements:

The final grade will be made up as follows: class participation, 10%; an essay (see instruction on page 4), 20%; a take-home midterm exam, 30%; and a final exam, 40%. Students should attend class steadily, and complete the required readings as scheduled. The midterm and final exams will test students mainly with interpretative questions. For other requirements, see *Instructions for Discussions, Presentations and Essays* at the end of the syllabus.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- Week 1 (Jan. 8/9/11) **Cultural Clash and Conversion**
Course orientation
Land, people, and culture
The Opium Wars and treaty system
REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 1-25, 198-205; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 68-69, 72.
- Week 2 (Jan. 15/16/18) **China's Early Modernization (Westernization?)**
The Taiping revolt and Christianity
The Self-strengthening Movement
The 1898 Reform and Boxer uprising
REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 206-34; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 70-71, 73.
- Week 3 (Jan. 22/23/25) **The Republican Revolution**
Elite reformers and revolutionaries
The New Policy and constitutional reform
The 1911 Revolution and Asia's first republic
REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 235-53; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 74-75, 79.
- Week 4 (Jan. 29/30/Feb. 1) **WWI and Chinese Intellectuals**
World War I and new Western influence
Discussion: Chinese Views on the West
The May 4th Movement vs. Westernization
REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 255-75; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 76-77, 82.
- Week 5 (Feb. 5/6/8) **The Nationalist Revolution**
The Nationalist Revolution and Soviet impacts
The Nationalist Government and foreign powers
Film: *Salisbury's Report on China: Part 1*
REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 275-301; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 80-81.
- Week 6 (Feb. 12/13/15) **The Communist Revolution**
Mao's communism and the Long March
Midterm Examination

World War II and communist revival

REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 301-326; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 78, 83.

Week 7 (Feb. 18-22) **Reading Break**

Week 8 (Feb. 26/27/Mar. 1) **The Pacific War and Civil War**

The Pacific War, Civil War and CCP's Victory

Discussion: Westernized views on China

Film: *Salisbury's Report on China: Part 2*

REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 326-39; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 84-85.

Week 9 (Mar. 5/6/8) **China and the Cold War**

The founding of the communist state

4 group leaders' presentations: Discussions on Jan. 30 & Feb. 27

China, the Korean War, and the Cold War

REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 343-64; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 86-88.

Week 10 (Mar. 12/13/15) **Mao's Continuous Revolution**

Mass campaigns and the Cultural Revolution

Discussion: Communist views on China

Sino-Soviet and Sino-West relations

REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 365-405; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 89-94.

Week 11 (Mar. 19/20/22) **China's Turn to Reforms**

China's economic and political reforms

Discussion: Globalized views on China

Between four and five modernizations

REQUIRED READING: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 406-29; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, sections 95-99.

Week 12 (Mar. 26/27/29) **China's Rise as a Global Power**

Film: *Salisbury's Report on China: Part 3*

China at the turn of the century

4 group leaders' presentations: Discussions on Mar. 13 & 20

REQUIRED READINGS: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 429-51, 457-60; Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, section 100.

Week 13 (Apr. 2/3/5)

Modern China in a Global Context

Taiwan, Hong Kong, and “Greater China”

Chinese and Asian modernization (Westernization?)

Review and Reflection

REQUIRED READING: Fairbank and Goldman, *China*, 339-41, 460-69.

Term paper is due on Apr. 2, 2019

Online course evaluation at: <https://ces.uvic.ca/Blue/>

Final Examination

Second-term examinations begin on April 8th and end on April 27th, 2019. Instructors do not control the exam schedule. The University calendar states (p.49): “Students should wait until the final examination timetable is posted before making travel or work plans.” Please check the examination timetable at: <http://www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/examinations/timetable.php>

Instructions for Discussions, Presentations, and Essays

In the following class exercises, students will form four groups for discussions on Jan. 30 and Feb. 27, and for the subsequent presentations on Mar. 6. By Feb. 27, each group must elect a leader for a 7-minute presentation on Mar. 6. By the time of presentation, the group leader should submit two pages of lecture text about his or her presentation (in essay format; typed double-spaced; notes and bibliography on an additional page). This student will be excused from writing the term paper and receive **2 bonus marks** and the marks for a term paper (maximum 20% of final grade) based on the presentation and the lecture text. All students in the same group will receive a collective mark from their leader’s presentation as part of their marks for class participation (maximum 2.5 marks from each presentation).

Students will form *four different* groups for discussions on Mar. 13 and 20, and elect group leaders by Mar. 20 for presentations on Mar. 29, as in the first round of discussions and presentations. A student can make a presentation only once in the whole semester.

Students can choose **any one** of the following discussion topics or additional topics for a term paper, which should be of approximately 5 pages in length (typed double-spaced). It must cite sources from the two main textbooks and from at least two additional academic publications (internet sources must be publications of an academic nature). For relevant sources, see the website of “History of China” (<http://libguides.uvic.ca/c.php?g=256633&p=1944173>). For the paper’s academic style, refer to [UVic] Department of History’s “History Essay Style Guide” (<https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/history/assets/docs/styleguide.pdf>). The marks for the term paper will be based on the coherency of arguments, the adequacy of sources, the quality of analysis, and the correctness of writing and academic style.

All written assignments should be submitted to the instructor in hard copy. Late papers will be penalized 2 marks for each day. **Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence and carries penalties ranging from failure in an assignment to debarment from the university. Please check the university's policy on plagiarism for the definitions, procedures, and penalties for dealing with plagiarism.**

Topics for Discussions, Presentations, and Essays (TBA)