

The 20th Century History of China (1912–1992)

This is a course designed for Foreign Students' Study in China Program only.

Course Title: The 20th Century History of China

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Textbook: Edwin Pak-wah Leung, Ph.D., *Essentials of Modern Chinese History*, © 2006 by Research & Education Association Inc.

Reference Books and Websites:

1. Jonathan Fenby, *The Penguin History of Modern China: The Fall and Rise of a Great Power, 1850–2009*, London: Penguin Books Ltd, 2008.
2. Mary B. Rankin, John K. Fairbank and Albert Feuerwerker, *The Cambridge History of China, Volume 13 Part 2 Republican China 1912–1949, Part 2*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
3. Fairbank, John King, *The Great Chinese Revolution (1800-1985)*, New York: Harpers & Row, 1987.
4. http://www.drben.net/ChinaReport/Sources/History/History_Sources.html
5. Chinese Studies: Video & Audio Lectures with Harvard Faculty– – <http://www.extension.harvard.edu/open-learning-initiative/china-history>

Course Description and Objective:

This course will be a historical survey of the 20th c.-China in 1912-1992 from the socio-cultural as well as political perspectives. In order for the beginners to get a whole picture of China historically, We'll first sum up briefly the chronological history of 5,000-year-old China. Then, We will examine the causes and effects of the downfall of the Qing Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China in 1911-1916, the rise of the Separatist Warlord Regimes in 1916-1924, the May 4th Youth Movement in 1919 and the establishment of the Communist Party of China in 1921, the National Revolution and the termination of the Northern Warlord Regimes in 1924-1928, the establishment of Nanjing National Government and the rise of the new warlords in 1928-1937, the Anti-Japanese War in 1937-1945, the Civil War between the Nationalists and the Communists in 1945-1949, the establishment of the Communist Government in 1949 and the land reform and the nationalization movement of businesses in the early 1950s, the Anti-Rightist Struggle in the late 1950s, the Starvation and the economic recovery in the early 1960s, the Great Cultural Revolution in 1966-1976 and the ten-year chaos, the rise of Deng Xiaoping and his subsequent reform in 1978-1992. And we will discuss the above major events of China against the international background of that time.

Students who take part in this course are required to know not only essential elements of the major historical events and social changes in modern China, but also the causes and effects of those events and changes. Beginning with the study of modern Chinese events, students are

expected to understand gradually why and how China has progressed against the world situation. Students should also understand how the failures of modern Chinese revolutions, as the result of interaction between national and international unrests, finally resulted in the Communist rise to power and in the Communist reform later that is profoundly shaping the Chinese society today.

In short, this course is meant to help students understand the 20th c. China in its social-political structures and situations from a historical perspective within, which can vividly complement the perspective of outside observation. Finally, students are welcomed in this course to judge and criticize independently and freely.

This course will be conducted through the teacher's lectures, the documentary video in class, class discussions, students's presentations and after-class reading for the students.

Course Requirements:

(Exams consist of short-answer/essay questions.)

1. One mid-term exam (short-answer questions)	25%
2. Students's presentation	25%
3. Class attendance	25%
4. One final exam (essay questions)	25%

Note: English is required in class. It would be better if students can understand some Chinese.

Course Duration:

This course will be held for 12-16 weeks, three class hours every week except on public holidays.

Outline of the Lectures:

Lecture 1

A General Introduction: How to Understand the 20th c. History of China?

- (1) The 20th c. history of China is a history of war and revolution in China.
- (2) The 20th c. history of China is a history of China's nationalists and communists.
- (3) The 20th c. history of China is a history from disintegration to reunion in China.
- (4) The 20th c. history of China is a history of China's dream of independence and modernization.

Lecture 2

The Causes and Effects of the Downfall of the Qing Dynasty

- (1) From 1840 to 1911, the Qing Empire of China began to decline sharply.
- (2) The Causes and Effects of the Downfall:
 - A: External threat---Western powers' pressure and invasion;
 - B: Internal threat---the corruption of the Qing government and the inflexibility and inertia of the Chinese towards outside changes; the peasant uprisings.

Lecture 3

The Rise of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the Establishment of the Republic of China in 1911-1916

- (1) Dr. Sun, the Father of the Chinese Revolution, was born from a peasant family in Xiangshan, Guangdong in 1866 and later received the education of Western learning in Hawaii and Hong Kong.
- (2) In 1894, he and his friends established *Revive China Society*, the first revolutionary group by the Chinese bourgeoisie
- (3) From 1902-1905, Dr. Sun made a round-the-world trip to propagate his revolutionary ideas among overseas Chinese, esp. Chinese students abroad.
- (4) In the summer of 1905, Dr. Sun established in Tokyo, Japan *Chinese United League*, the Mother of the Chinese Revolution.
- (5) The guidelines of *Chinese United League* were “to overthrow the Manchu rulers, revive China, establish a republic and equalize landownership”. Dr. Sun boiled these guidelines down to *Three People’s Principles: Nationalism, Democracy and Socialism* (p.49, *Essentials of Modern Chinese History* by Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung).
- (6) The uprisings organized by *Chinese United League* (p.9, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (7) The 1911 Sichuan railway controversy and the Wuchang Revolution in October 10 (p.10-13, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (8) On Dec.25,1911, Dr. Sun was elected the provisional president of the Republic of China in Nanjing, and the first day of the republic was designated Jan. 1, 1912 (p.13-16, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (9) Yuan Shikai, first as the president and later as the emperor and the downfall of the Qing; the capital of the republic was moved to Beijing (p.55-59, *Essentials of Modern Chinese History* by Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung; p.17-34, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).

Lecture 4

The Rise of the Separatist Warlord Regimes in 1916-1924

- (1) The Northern Army and warlordism (p.59-62; p.78-83, *Essentials of Modern Chinese History* by Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung; p.45-48, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (2) The disputes between the government and the congress and Zhang Xun’s restoration (p.48-54, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).

Lecture 5

The May 4th Youth Movement in 1919 and the Establishment of the Communist Party of China in 1921

- (1) The impact of Russian Revolution in October, 1917 (p.64-65, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (2) The failure of China’s diplomacy in Paris in April, 1919 (p.66-67, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).
- (3) The May 4th Youth Movement in 1919 (p.67-71, *Modern History of China* by Chen

Tingxiang).

- (4) The New Culture Movement in 1915-1919 (p.63-64, *Essentials of Modern Chinese History* by Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung).
- (5) Western doctrines and the rise of the CCP (p.72-92, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).

Lecture 6

The National Revolution and the Termination of the Northern Warlord Regimes in 1924-1928

- (1) After the formation of the first Nationalist-Communist United Front, or the Soviet-GMD-CCP cooperation (e.g. the Whampoa Military Academy), in 1923, the National Revolution with workers' and peasants' movements soon spread out in China.
- (2) The revolutionary bases in Guangdong were united and the Guangzhou National Government was set up. Dr. Sun died in March, 1925, and Wang Jingwei and Chiang Kaishek rose in the GMD.
- (3) The purge of communists by Chiang: the Warship *Zhongshan* Incident and Straighten out the Party Affairs.
- (4) The GMD government moved from Guangdong to Wuhan in Jan., 1927. Wang Jingwei disagreed with Chiang in purging the CCP, so he and his government dismiss Chiang from his post as commander-in-chief of the National Revolutionary Army.
- (5) In April, 1927, Chiang, not bothered by the dismissal, organized his own government in Nanjing with the help of Hu Hanmin. Chiang successfully continued the Northern Expedition.
- (6) On August 1, 1927, the Nanchang Uprising took place in which Communists rebelled in the name of the Nationalist Left Wing. This prompted Wang Jingwei to liquidate the CCP within the GMD and re-structured the front organizations. All differences between Wuhan and Nanjing governments were reconciled. Chiang was soon re-appointed as commander-in-chief, and Wang went into exile in Japan.
- (7) The year 1928 witnessed Chiang basically reunify China and the end of the warlordism and of the military rule.

Lecture 7

The Establishment of Nanjing National Government and the Struggles and Cooperations between Nationalists and Communists in 1928-1949 (the Anti-Japanese War in 1937-1945 the Civil War between Nationalists and Communists in 1945-1949)

- (1) Chiang Kaishek was still busy fighting those smaller regional separatist warlords and reforming China (like the New Lifestyle Movement).
- (2) The CCP established the Chinese Soviet Republic in Jiangxi and Hunan in 1931-1934.
- (3) From late 1934 to late 1936, the Red Army completed their Long March, and Yan'an, in North Shaanxi, became the new base for the CCP. In Yan'an, Mao Zedong became an indisputable leader of the CCP.
- (4) In Sept., 1931, the Japanese army occupied China's Manchuria and General Zhang Xueliang's army withdrew from Northeast China.
- (5) In Dec., 1936, General Zhang Xueliang kidnapped Chiang Kaishek in Xi'an, and the second Nationalist-Communist United Front was soon formed to fight against the

Japanese invasion. In July, 1937, Japan began invaded North China. In Dec., 1939, Japan attacked the Pearl Harbour, and the Pacific War broke out. In Aug., 1945, Japan surrendered (p.403-410, *Modern History of China* by Chen Tingxiang).

- (6) In June, 1946, the Civil War broke out. In October, Mao declared the founding of New China in Beijing.

Lecture 8

The Land Reform and the Nationalization Movement of Businesses in the Early 1950s and the Korean War (1950-1953)

- (1) The economic recovery period (1950-1952).
- (2) The Land Reform and Suppressing Counter-Revolutionaries (1950-1952).
- (3) The Socialist Transformation Movement (1953-1956).
- (4) The First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957).

Lecture 9

The Ten-Year Speedy Socialist Construction (1957-1966).

- (1) The Anti-Rightist Struggle in 1956-1957 and the Great Leap Forward (1957-1959).
- (2) The Sino-Soviet split in late 1950s.
- (3) The downfall of Peng Dehuai in 1959.
- (4) The Starvation and the Economic Recovery in the Early 1960s.
- (5) The Socialist Education Movement (1962-1965).

Lecture 10

The Great Cultural Revolution and the Red Guards Movement in 1966-1976 (the Ten-Year Chaos)

- (1) The downfall of Liu Shaoqi and his group in 1966.
- (2) The downfall of Lin Biao and his group in 1971.
- (3) The border conflicts between China and the Soviet Union in 1969.
- (4) The normalization of the Sino-American relationship and the Sino-Japanese relationship in Feb., 1972 and in Sept., 1972 respectively.
- (5) The rise of the “Gang of Four” into power in 1973-1976.
- (6) The deaths of Mao, Zhou and Zhu in 1976.
- (7) The downfall of the “Gang of Four” and the rise of Hua Guofeng.

Lecture 11

The End of Mao Zedong and Hua Guofeng; the Rise of Deng Xiaoping and His Subsequent Reform in 1978-1992

Lecture 12

For a Free Discussion (talk over tea party or hot-pot food)

Note: The program for the whole course may have some adjustments when necessary.

Chronology of China

Neolithic Period		6500-1700BC
Xia Dynasty		2100-1600BC
Shang Dynasty		1600-1100BC
Zhou Dynasty		1100-256BC
	Western Zhou	1100-771BC
	Eastern Zhou	770-256BC
	Spring & Autumn Period	770-476BC
	Warring States Period	475-221BC
Qin Dynasty		221-206BC
<u>Han Dynasty</u>		206BC-220AD
	Western Han	206BC - 8AD
	Xin	9-23AD
	Eastern Han	25-220AD
Three Kingdoms		220-265
	Wei	220-265
	Shu Han	221-263
	Wu	222-263
Jin Dynasty		265-420
	Western Jin	265-317
	Eastern Jin	317-420
Southern Dynasties		
Northern Dynasties		420-589
	Southern Dynasties	
	Liu Song	420-479
	Southern Qi	479-502
	Liang	502-557
	Chen	557-589
	Northern Dynasties	
	Northern Wei	386-534
	Eastern Wei	534-550
	Northern Qi	550-577
	Western Wei	535-556
	Northern Zhou	557-581
Sui Dynasty		581-618
<u>Tang Dynasty</u>		618-907
Five Dynasties		907-960
	Later Tang	923-936

	Later Han	947-950	
Liao Dynasty			907-1125
Song Dynasty			960-1279
	Northern Song	960-1127	
	Southern Song	1127-1279	
Jin Dyansty			1115-1234
Yuan Dynasty			1279-1368
Ming Dynasty			1368-1644
	Hongwu	1368-1398	
	Jianwu	1399-1402	
	Yongle	1403-1425	
	Hongxi	1425	
	Xuande	1426-1435	
	Zhengtong	1436-1449	
	Jingtai	1450-1456	
	Tianshun	1457-1464	
	Chenghua	1465-1487	
	Hognzhi	1488-1505	
	Zhengde	1506-1521	
	Jiajing	1522-1566	
	Longqing	1567-1572	
	Wanli	1573-1619	
	Taichang	1620	
	Tianqi	1621-1627	
	Chingzhen	1628-1644	
Qing Dynasty			1644-1911
	Shunzhi	1644-1661	
	Kangxi	1662-1722	
	Yongzheng	1723-1735	
	Qianlong	1736-1795	
	Jiaqing	1796-1820	
	Daoguang	1821-1850	
	Xianfeng	1851-1861	
	Tongzhi	1862-1874	
	Guangxu	1875-1908	
	Xuantong	1908-1911	
Republic of China			1912-1949(in Mainland China)
Hongxian (Yuan Shikai)--Restoration			1915-1916

Note: The change-over of the scores to grades:

$$90 - 92 = A-$$

$$93 - 95 = A$$

$$96 - 100 = A+$$

$$80 - 83 = B-$$

$$84 - 86 = B$$

$$87 - 89 = B+$$

$$60 - 69 = C-$$

$$70 - 75 = C$$

$$76 - 79 = C+$$

The score below 60 is F (Failure).