DESCRIPTION: For the past century, China has sought to establish itself as a strong, independent, and modern nation. This course examines what that means in terms of Chinese history from the late-Qing to present day. We will examine political, social, economic, and intellectual trends using a variety of media including textbook readings, monographs, articles, short stories, biographies, primary sources, to gain a better understanding of China through its modern history. One of the major themes of this course is how the past is remembered and to that end, many of our readings will be in the form of memoirs, oral histories, interviews, and novels/stories based on the authors’ experiences.

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lecture and discussion

FIELD STUDY: Occasional field trips and site visits

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English with an introduction and explanation of Chinese terms and quotations.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: IES has a strict attendance policy for Area Studies classes and it will be enforced in this class. EACH unexcused absence will lower your overall grade by a step (e.g. a B becomes a B-). Please see the IES Handbook for further guidelines on documenting absences. Please show up to class on time, three times being tardy without a proper excuse will count as an unexcused absence.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Class Participation 15%
Quizzes 5%
Reading Questions 20%
Final project 20% Due May 1
Midterm Exam 20% March 1
Final Exam 20% April 26

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Grades are assigned according to the following point system:
A  93-100  B  83-86  C  73-76  D  63-66
A-  90-92  B-  80-82  C-  70-72  F  62 or below
B+ 87-89  C+ 77-79  D+ 67-69

Grading criteria:

C work means adequate and satisfactory completion of assignments. It indicates you could recall the basic subject matter of the course, apply that knowledge in discussions and written assignments, and express your ideas and arguments in an intelligible but otherwise undistinguished manner.

B work is good. It means you recall more than just the basic facts and that you can apply that knowledge in a way that makes connections with your own ideas and observations. You express your ideas and arguments with great clarity and concision.
A work is excellent. It means that you have an absolute mastery of the subject matter. You can apply your knowledge in critical and original ways, and express your ideas in a very clear and persuasive manner while drawing on a variety of sources to support your arguments.

**Class Participation & Attendance 15%**. Woody Allen once said 90% of success in life is just showing up. Well, the sentiment is right even if the percentage is a bit off. IES has a strict attendance policy for Area Studies classes and it will be enforced in this class. **EACH unexcused absence will lower your overall grade by a step** (e.g. a B becomes a B-). Please see the IES Handbook for further guidelines on documenting absences. Please show up to class on time, three times being tardy without a proper excuse will count as an unexcused absence (see above).

Preparation is essential to participation. Readings must be done before the class session. Homework assignments and the occasional pop quiz will no doubt contribute to your motivation to plow through it, but I also feel that to truly get something out of this course and to promote an atmosphere of lively discussion and debate in the class, it is imperative that you have done the day’s reading and carefully considered the information in the overall context of that day’s class and the course in general.

**Quizzes 5%**: Students should be prepared for the occasional unannounced quiz on the readings. These will be done at the very beginning of class; students who are late without documentation will not be allowed to make up quizzes. The first quiz is a map quiz of China on February 1.

**Reading Questions/Class Responses 20%**: These are short assignments to get you thinking about the readings and site visits for that class. Your total answers need not be extensive (500-750 words total) but should show careful thought and consideration of the readings and the questions asked. Homework should be submitted via the Moodle course page by the start of the next class.

**Exams 20%/20%**: There will be two exams. Each examination will be given once and there will be no make-up examinations given. The examinations will consist of short-identification and textual analysis. Short identification questions will ask you first to briefly define or identify some terms taken from the readings and lectures and then point out their historical significance. Textual analysis will ask you to identify and explain a passage from your readings within the larger contextual framework of the class, based on your take on the readings and class discussion.

**Final Project (20%)**: This assignment asks you to conduct a series of interviews/oral histories based upon examples found in our readings from Liao Yiwu and John Pomfret and others. The final product will be about 5-7 pages in length and will interpolate oral histories with information from class and readings.

**Deadline Extensions** must be requested *in advance*, and will be granted only in exceptional cases. *If you are not granted an extension in advance*, your grade will be lowered by one step for every 24-hour period after the due date. Homework assignments lose one step (check plus becomes check, etc.) for every 24-hour period late with a maximum of three days. Homework overdue by more than 72 hours will not be accepted for credit.

**Academic Integrity** All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in substantial penalty to your course grade as well as lead to further administrative sanctions. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, check with me *before* you submit your work.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of 20th-Century Chinese History using secondary and primary sources.
• Analyze and use primary documents in speaking and writing about Chinese history.
• Understand the deep connections between China’s past and contemporary political and social issues in the P.R.C.
• Evaluate the way history is remembered and recounted through memoir, oral history, interview, and fictional accounts of personal experience and to explore the advantages and limitations of these types of sources.
• Demonstrate the way in which history and narrative is produced, deployed, reproduced, and understood in contemporary China.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTRUCTOR: My job is to be your guide through Chinese history and to grade your papers and exams. I will conduct class as a mixture of both lecture and discussion and work to foster an environment for discussion, debate, and questioning. I am always available to answer any questions and to work with you on your written assignments. Instruction on how to lead a permanent revolution and/or plan a dinner party are also available for a small surcharge.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT: Students will be required to attend every class and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation means that you have not only read the material and brought the readings with you, but will also have thought about the readings within the broader context of the course. Having the insight and political skill of Zhou Enlai, while useful, is not a course prerequisite.

CONTENT:

January 26
Note: While this class usually meets on Thursday, our first class meeting is on Friday, January 26th.

The New Republic

Zou Rong, Selections from “Revolutionary Army”
“Tongmenghui Revolutionary Proclamation”
“The Manchu Abdication Edict”


February 1
New Youth
Note: This class will meet at the old campus of Peking University


Chen Duxiu, Mr. Science and Mr. Democracy


Hu Shi, “Less Talk of –Isms”

“Sun Yat-sen Opens the Whampoa Academy, 1924” in Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz. The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection. New York: Norton, pp. 252-255

**February 14**
**Unification**
**Because of the Spring Festival holiday, this class meets on Wednesday, February 14th 1-4**

**Note:** The map quiz will be at the beginning of class


**February 22**
**Not a Dinner Party**

“Not a Dinner Party,” in *Wealth and Power: China’s Long March to the Twenty-first Century.*


**March 1**
**Midterm Exam**
March 8
Creative Destruction

“Creative Destruction,” in *Wealth and Power: China’s Long March to the Twenty-first Century.*


March 15
Black Cat, White Cat

“Black Cat, White Cat,” in *Wealth and Power: China’s Long March to the Twenty-first Century.*


“Victims” in Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, pp. 458-469


“The One Child Family” in Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, pp. 478-481

March 22
Turmoil


“Posters Calling for Democracy,” in Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, pp. 496-500


April 11 (Wednesday)
Field Trip: National Museum

April 12
Entering the World

“Defending China’s Socialist Democracy” in Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, pp. 501-504


April 19
No Enemies, No Hatred


“China’s Charter 08,” translated from the Chinese by Perry Link

Jeffrey Wasserstrom and Gina Anne Tam, “What Liu Xiaobo’s Death says about China’s Two Futures,” The Nation, July 25, 2017


“Xi Jinping has been good for China’s Communist Party; less so for China” The Economist, October 14, 2017
April 26
Final Exam

REQUIRED READINGS:

Main Text:

Documentary Collections
