History 191: China Past and Present

**Description:**
History 191, which is a continuation of History 190 (though 190 is not a prerequisite), introduces students to contemporary China from a historical perspective. Most of the class is devoted to a chronological and thematic overview of China’s modern transformation. This overview serves as a foundation for a historical understanding of the contemporary issues in Chinese politics and society that we will explore at the end of the quarter.

**Section Discussions:** In addition to attending class lectures, students are required to participate in section discussions. Effective section discussions depend on students coming to section meetings with the assigned readings well prepared. Section reading assignments provide an opportunity to focus on primary texts. (Primary texts are the firsthand sources through which historians analyze the past and write their histories.) Among these readings you will find political documents, newspaper articles, fiction from the period under study, and personal memoirs. You should read these primary sources carefully and critically, keeping in mind the context in which they were written. To do this, you should always read assigned sections of the textbook first, to get a sense of the historical context for individual documents. Section discussions will focus on learning to interpret these primary texts.

Your section discussions are facilitated by your Graduate Teaching Fellow (GTF), but successful discussion depends on your own preparation and participation. After the first week, to help you prepare for the week’s discussion, your GTF will compile three or four questions and will email them to you. Although the discussion will not be limited to the topics raised by these questions, these questions will enable you to prepare for the discussion. Each week you will be expected to bring written discussion notes on one of the set questions to your section meeting. During the term you should keep in close contact with the GTF responsible for your section. Please note their e-mail addresses, above.
Requirements and Grading:

- All readings are required. Attendance at lectures and participation in section discussions is also required. Material from the lectures, section meetings, and course readings will be on exams.
- There is a required map quiz, which will be taken in a section meeting. This quiz counts for 5% of your final course grade.
- You are expected to attend the section for which you are enrolled. Your work in section counts for 20% of your final course grade. Your grade will be based on discussion notes, discussion participation, and attendance.
- There is a midterm and a final examination. The midterm counts for 15% and the final counts for 20% of your final grade.
- There are four quizzes (5 points each) on readings (totaling 20% of your final grade). **These quizzes are marked on the syllabus.** They cannot be made up without a doctor’s note.
- Two short papers are due in class (see class schedule for due dates), one on Pang-Mei Natasha Chang’s memoir *Bound Feet & Western Dress*, and one on Tashi Tsering’s autobiography *The Struggle for Modern Tibet*. Be sure to refer to the “General Instructions for Papers” which will be handed out together with the assigned topic for the first paper. Each paper counts for 10% of your final course grade.

Reading Materials: The following texts (listed in order of appearance in your reading assignments) are available at the bookstore for purchase.


In addition, a **required course packet** is on sale at the UO Bookstore. The packet contains primary readings that are required for your section discussions. Readings from the course packet are marked with an asterisk (*) in the schedule of readings and lectures below.

China Websites for your Browsing Interest:

- [http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net](http://www.chinadigitaltimes.net)  Coverage of China by the Western media.
- [http://www.danwei.org](http://www.danwei.org)  A Hong Kong website about media, advertising, and urban life in China. It contains frequent references to and translations from Chinese media in the PRC.
- [http://www.chinabloglist.org](http://www.chinabloglist.org)  Links to weblogs on China.
Schedule of Readings and Lectures

**Week 1**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 1-38;
Chang, *Bound Feet*, 1-48;
*“Placards Posted in Guangzhou”*

January 6: Overview of language, geography, and history to 1800
January 8: Section: Discuss *“Placards Posted in Guangzhou”*
January 10: Foreign aggression and internal turmoil

**Week 2**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 38-53;
Chang, *Bound Feet*, 50-215

January 13: Self-strengthening, nationalism, and the 1911 Revolution
January 15: Section: discuss Chang, *Bound Feet*
January 17: **QUIZ # 1** (on Moise, 1-53)
Failure of the first republic and May Fourth Movement

**Week 3**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 54-68;

January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, **no class**
**FIRST PAPER DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION** (on Chang, *Bound Feet*);
**Map Quiz**
January 24: The founding of the Chinese Communist Party and the
Northern Expedition

**Week 4**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 69-105;
*Chiang Kai-shek, “Nationalism and Traditionalism”*
*Shen Congwen, “Staff Adviser”*
*Mao Dun, “Spring Silkworms”*

January 27: The Nationalist Decade
January 29: Section: Discuss Chiang, Mao, and Shen readings
January 31: WW II; **QUIZ 2** (on Moise, 54-105)

**Week 5**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 105-121;
*Ding Ling, “Thoughts of March 8”*
*Mao Zedong, “On Art and Literature”*
*Mao Zedong, “On People’s Democratic Dictatorship”*

February 3: Civil war
February 5: Section: Discuss Ding and Mao readings
February 7: **MIDTERM** (Covers readings, lectures, and sections to date)

**Week 6**
Read Moise, *Modern China*, 122-164;
*Hinton, Fanshen*, viii-xii, 128-141, 147-160

February 10: Founding of the People’s Republic of China
February 12: Section: Discuss Hinton reading
February 14: The Great Leap Forward

Week 7
Read Moise, Modern China, 165-213, 220-234;
*“Forward to the Second Edition,” and selections from Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong;
Tsering, The Struggle for Modern Tibet, 89-168;

February 17: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
February 19: Section: Discuss Mao and Tsering, readings
February 21: **QUIZ # 3** (on Moise, 105-213, 220-234)
Post-Mao reforms

Week 8
Read Moise, Modern China, 213-219, 234-268;
*Deng Xiaoping, Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth From Facts and Unite as One Looking to the Future”;
*Deng Xiaoping, “Main Points of Deng’s Talks in Shenzhen (1992)”;
*Liu Binyan, “A Case of Persecution in Xi’an in Disregard of Central Instructions, August 25, 1984”;
Tsering, The Struggle for Modern Tibet, 6-88

February 24: Economic reforms and their consequences
February 26: Section: Discuss Deng and Liu readings
February 28: **QUIZ # 4** (on Moise 213-219, 234-268)
Greater China and China’s economic transformation

Week 9
Read Tsering, The Struggle for Modern Tibet, 169-201;
*“Dalai Lama and ‘Ahimsa’ for Tibet: The Nobel Peace Prize Lecture, December 10, 1989”

March 3: Islam, Xinjiang, and Tibet
March 5: Section: **SECOND PAPER DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION**
(on Tsering, Struggle for Modern Tibet)
Discuss Tsering and Dalai Lama readings

March 7: Rural China

Week 10
Read Mo, Change
March 10: Social effects of economic reforms
March 12: Section: Discuss Mo, Change
March 14: Review

TBA: FINAL EXAMINATION.