Modern China
in Film, Theater, and Oral History

Instructor: Mi Zhao
Email: zhao2@uoregon.edu
Meeting time: MTWR 2-3:50pm (June 23-July 20)
Place: McK 214
Office hour: M 4-6pm & by appointment

This course focuses on acquainting students with contemporary China in historical and trans-regional/national perspectives. Most of the class is devoted to a chronological and thematic overview of China in a larger global framework. This overview serves as a foundation for the understanding of contemporary issues in China—politics, economy, culture, and people. In this course, we will apply multi-media sources, including video (film, documentary, opera), visual (photo, cartoon), audio (opera and songs) and oral history from ordinary Chinese. In so doing, we will be able to obtain diverse perspectives of individuals, both ordinary and great, Chinese and non-Chinese, so that you will be familiar with a critical approach in history study as well as in the understanding of the world.

Requirements and Grading:

- Participation, 15%, based on your attendance and participation.
- A map quiz, 5%
- The midterm, 20%
- The final, 30%
- Two short papers, 10% and 20%

Paper assignment:

- Papers are due in class (see class schedule for due dates):
- Be sure to refer to the “General Instructions for Papers” which will be on the course website.
- (1) A two-page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point) on Joseph Esherick, Ancestral Leaves: A Family Journey through Chinese History, chapter 2 & 3, 10%. Discuss your thoughts on the relationships of Chinese family and society.
- (2) A five-page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point) on Tashi Tsering’s autobiography The Struggle for Modern Tibet, 20%. In the second paper some improvements in your writing and analysis is expected.

Absences or late assignments will only be excused in the event of documented illness. Any work submitted for credit that includes the words or ideas of anyone else must fully and accurately identify your source in a complete citation. If you are confused about this, please read the UO plagiarism policy: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/
Reading Materials: (All will be available on Blackboard)


Video Materials (documentaries, films, and operas):
- Mi Zhao, video clips on retired GMD officers, war orphan, and individual Chinese emigrants in “the Golden Triangle” on the borders of China, Thailand, and Myanmar, 2011.
- Monte Markham; William Schlueter; Lee Fulkerson; Klaire Markham; Roger Mudd *Chinatown: Stranger in a Strange Land*, 2008.

In addition to the books listed above, a series of primary texts will be posted on the Blackboard. All readings are listed in the schedule of lectures below.

China Websites for your Browsing Interest:

[http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm) maps and art  
[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

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**Schedule of Readings and Lectures**
June 23  **Introduction, Overview of Language and Geography**

- Two significant moments in Chinese history
- The encounter of two world systems

**Reading:**

June 24  **The 19th Century—the External and Internal Challenges—the Opium Wars and the Rebellions**

**Film—*The Opium War* (section, in class)**

June 25  **Reform—Self-strengthening, Nationalism, the New Woman, Global Influence—from “Barbarians” to the “Westerners”**

**Map quiz (in class)**
**Documentary—*the Youth* (section, in class)**

June 26  **The 1911 Revolution and the 1919 May Fourth Movement & International Players**

**Documentary—*China: A Century of Revolution* (section, in class)**

June 30  **The 1920s—Warlords and Parties & Backstage Players at Home and Abroad**

July 1  **The 1930s—the Nanjing Decade and the New Life Movement & the Global Environment**

**Film—*The Goddess*, 1934, or *The New Woman*, 1935**
July 2  WWII in China and Foreign “Enemies” in China (1937-1945)

Film-- *The Spring River Flows East*, 1947. (section, in class)

July 3  The Civil War (1945-1949) & International Mediators and Observers

First Paper due in class

July 7  Mid-term exam

July 8  1949-1957--The Founding & the Development of the People’s Republic of China & the Cold War

Mi Zhao, Video clips--on retired GMD officers, war orphan, and individual Chinese emigrants in “the Golden Triangle” between the PRC, Thailand, and Myanmar, 2011

July 9  The Anti-Rightist Campaign and the Great Leap Forward
& China and the USSR
the Making of the New Socialist Woman

Film--*Li Shuangshuang* (section, in class)

July 10  The Culture Revolution & the World in the 1960s
China and the US

Opera /Ballet/Film—*Sister Red, Yimeng Song, Red Cloud Mount*, 1964-1976
Opera (US)—*Nixon in China*, 2012

July 14  The Late 1970s—Economic Reform & the Global Market

Second Paper Due in class
Documentary—24 City and China Blue (sections, in class)

July 15 **Post-reform Problems & Global Responses**
- Please bring your questions on this topic to class

Documentary—Small Happiness (section, in class)

July 16 **Overseas Chinese and China’s Overseas Influence**
Documentary—Chinatown: Stranger in a Strange Land (section, in class)
- Rethinking “China” in the world from the 14th century—Zheng He’s treasure boat to the present

July 17 **Final exam**