

HIS 395—China in Revolution

Fall 2012

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:30-3:45, Bishop 101

Dr. Joshua Howard

jhhoward@olemiss.edu

915-5749

Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00-2:15 or by appointment

313 Bishop

Course Description:

This course focuses on the Chinese people's struggle to transform the world's oldest dynastic order and to create a revolutionary society during the 20th century. The Communist revolution of 1949, within the limits posed by history, ecology and geo-political realities, has remade China. The leading question for this course is to ask what exactly has changed over the course of the revolution(s). We will place the major stress on the rise, evolution, and impact of Chinese communism, with particular attention to changes in China since the founding of the PRC in 1949. The vast and still controversial nature of the revolution may thus enhance students' understanding of historical interpretation, historical change and continuity. First person accounts, classic and revisionist scholarly works, literature, and film are used to explore the Chinese revolution. The course has several goals: to develop greater understanding of one of the world's most important regions; to examine a society and history with very different values and attitudes from ours so as to generate cross-cultural understanding and broaden intellectual horizons; to hone your skills as historians; and to promote an increased ability to think, analyze and write. Background knowledge of China welcomed, but not assumed. All that is required is an open mind and willingness to learn about other peoples and cultures. You are reminded of the wisdom of Confucius: "learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is intellectual death."

Texts

Each year Americans spend five times as much on dog food as on college books. History 395 is doing its part to help us get priorities right. The following texts are available at the Student Union Bookstore and on 24-hour reserve at the Williams Library.

FROLIC, Michael. *Mao's People: Sixteen Portraits of life in Revolutionary China* (Harvard, 1980). HN737.M36

GRASSO, June. *Modernization and Revolution in China: From the Opium Wars to the Olympics* (4th ed.) (M.E. Sharpe, 2009). DS755.G7 2009

LAWRANCE, Alan. *China since 1919: Reform and Revolution: a Sourcebook* (Routledge, 2004). DS773.89.L39 2004

MEISNER, Maurice. *Mao Zedong: a Political and Intellectual Portrait* (Polity, 2007). DS778.M3 M43 2007

WESTAD, Odd Arne. *Decisive Encounters: The Chinese Civil War* (Stanford University Press, 2003). DS777.54.W463 2003

Course Requirements

- (1) Four unannounced quizzes to test your knowledge of the reading (100 total points)
- (2) One midterm exam: essay and short-answer format, given in class. (150 points)
- (3) Three 5-page papers (150 points each).
- (4) Final comprehensive exam (250 points) Consists of essays and short-answer. Students must take the final exam to pass the course.
- (5) Quality class participation will be factored in raising the final grade. (50 points)

Attendance at class is required, and any record of excessive absences or tardiness will be treated as cause for lowering the final grade. More than 5 absences may result in automatic failure of the course. Make-up examinations and quizzes or extensions to the due dates for essays will be granted only to students who have encountered well-documented health, family, or work-related emergencies.

Essays will be evaluated in the following terms: How cogent, compelling, and consistent is the argument of the paper? How well have you employed evidence drawn from the reading to support your argument, and how extensively? And, how clear and correct is the prose of the essay?

Note: After I return your first essay with grade and comments, you may re-submit it if you choose to redraft substantially. The re-submission is due within a week after I return your paper, and if merited will raise your grade to a maximum of 90 out of 100 points. You must include with your resubmission a short paragraph detailing exactly what substantive changes/additions you have made.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

There will be zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in any form, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, which means essentially the act of passing someone else's work off as your own in any form. Such activities amount to theft of intellectual property. Assignments found to be in violation will be failed without the possibility of repeating them and the student may fail the course.

No grade lower than "C" may be counted toward the 33-hour requirement for history majors.

Classroom Etiquette:

Please come to class ready to learn. Students engaged in other activities during class distract the instructor and other students. This includes eating, reading the newspaper, doing other assignments, passing notes, texting, and talking to neighbors. Students found to be doing any of these activities will be asked to leave the classroom. Be sure to set your phone to vibrate. Also, this class has a no laptop policy. Students should bring a pen and paper to class for note taking.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Readings marked with * can all be downloaded from the Documents section of Blackboard. Please bring them to class on the due date as we will often discuss these readings.

Part I: The “Old Regime” and the Western Challenge

T	Aug.21	Introduction
TH	Aug.23	Confucius & the Political System Grasso, ch.2; Confucius- <i>Analects</i> *
T	Aug.28	The Tribute System and Opium War Video: “The Two Coasts of China: Asia & Challenge of the West” Grasso, 32-42; Chinese Interpreter;* Qianlong Edict*
TH	Aug.30	War & Imperialism in 19 th Century China Grasso, ch.3, Zarrow, pt.1*
T	Sep.4	Chinese Nationalism and the 1911 Revolution Grasso, 65-73; Zarrow, ch.3;* Zou Rong, “On Revolution”*
TH	Sep.6	Revolutionary Personalities: Qiu Jin and Sun Yat-sen “Tongmenghui Manifesto”* Qiu Jin*

Part II: Ideology and the Revolution: Why Marxism?

T	Sep.11	The May 4 th Movement, Radical Nationalism in China Grasso, 73-81; Lawrance, pp.1-17
TH	Sep.13	Lu Xun & the New Culture Movement Lu Xun’s “Ah Q—The Real Story”* 1st essay due
T	Sep.18	Origins of the CCP: Anarchism versus Marxism-Leninism Lawrance, 19-21. START READING MEISNER
TH	Sep.20	The First United Front & the Nationalist Revolution Grasso, 81-87; Lawrance, 22-35; Smith*
T	Sep.25	Mao & the Chinese Revolution Meisner, chs.1-3; Lawrance, 39-47.
TH	Sep.27	Midterm Exam

Part III: War and Revolution

- T Oct.2 The Nanjing Decade & the Proletarian Arts Movement
Mao Dun*
- TH Oct.4 Jiangxi Soviet & the Long March
Lawrance, 53-59; Meisner, 72-76
- T Oct.9 The War of Resistance against Japan
Grasso, Ch.6; Lawrance, 69-81. Start reading Westad
- TH Oct.11 Yan'an Marxism: the Mass Line & Party Rectification
Lawrance, Ch.5; Meisner, 76-105
- T Oct.16 The Chinese Civil War
- TH Oct.18 Westad, *Decisive Encounters*
2nd paper due

Part III: Socialist Construction in China: Liberation from, Liberation to...

- T Oct.23 Creating a New Society & the Korean War
Grasso, Ch.7; Lawrance, 120-131; Meisner, 108-119
- TH Oct.25 Mass Campaigns & Collectivization
Lawrance, 132-140; Meisner, 119-129; Li Shuangshuang*
- T Oct.30 One Hundred Flowers Movement & the Anti-Rightist Campaign
Meisner, 130-139; Lawrance, Ch.8; Wang Jo-Wang*
- Th Nov.1 The Great Leap Forward
Grasso: Ch.8; Lawrance, ch.9; Meisner, ch.6

Part IV: The Cultural Revolution

- T Nov.6 Origins of the Cultural Revolution
Meisner, 161-169
- TH Nov.8 Video: TBA
Grasso: ch.9; Lawrance, 183-202; Meisner, 169-192
- T Nov.13 Red Guards & Rustification
Frolic: 9-22, 42-57, 71-86

TH Nov.15 Social Change and the Cultural Revolution
Frolic: 23-41, 58-70, 122-143, 157-177, 195-209, 224-256
3rd Essay Due

Part V: Legacies of the Revolution

T Nov.27 Evaluating Mao's Legacy
Meisner-Epilogue; China Reader pp.29-49*

TH Nov.29 Remembering the Revolution
Ba Jin* Lawrance, 275-279; Lee;* Lu-The Wounded*

T Dec.4 4:00-7:00 FINAL EXAM