

Course Title: China in Transformation

Course Description:

This course deals with the transformation of China from a traditional type of society to a modern nation. The goal of this course is to offer students a basic knowledge of modern Chinese history in historical, social and political contexts so that students may engage the subject of “China” in an informed and knowledgeable manner. The topics of lectures and class discussions will be introduced both chronologically and thematically. Two major themes, nationalism and communism, will serve as organizing threads throughout the course. Major events in the past, such as the Taiping Rebellion, the May 4th Movement, Communist victory, will be selectively and emphatically explored.

Required Readings:

1. R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*
2. W. Travis Hanes and Frank Sanello, *The Opium Wars*
3. Ba Jin, *The Family*
4. Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*
5. Jasper Becker, *Hungry Ghosts*

Grading and course requirements:

Mid-term -----20%
Final exam ----- 25%
Book review ----- 20%
Term paper -----25%
Attendance and discussion -----10%

Students are expected to submit **two** book reports (4-5 pages) and a research paper of approximately 12 pages on any topic related to modern China. Everyone must write a book report on *The Opium Wars*. You may choose any book from *The Family*, *The Rape of Nanking* and *Hungry Ghosts* for your second book report. All papers should double-spaced, 12-font size. For book reports, only hard copies will be accepted. You may send your final paper through email. All papers must be submitted before the class on the due date.

The course takes the form of a combination of lecture and discussion, requiring commitment to weekly reading, informed discussion, and critical writing. There will be one lecture and one discussion section a week. The discussion will mainly be based on weekly readings, especially R. Keith Schoppa’s *Revolution and Its Past*. Each student will lead a discussion at least once during the semester, and students may choose which week they prefer to lead the discussion.

Class attendance is mandatory. Students have to finish all readings before coming any particular class.

Academic Integrity:

Every student should submit his or her own original work on all written assignments. Plagiarism in any form at any time will not be tolerated and will result in at least a failing grade for this course. All material from both printed and electronic sources must be appropriately cited. Please see me if you have any questions at all about what to cite and how to do it. For more information, please see the Peking University's policy on academic honesty.

Class Schedules and Readings:

Minor changes may occur in order to meet better learning needs of the class.

- All students should read the text book *Revolution and Its Past* by R. Keith Schoppa and original sources provided through e-copy; Reading assignments for the following books are optional: *The Opium Wars*, *The Family*, *The Rape of Nanking*, *Hungry Ghosts*. Students may choose any (at least) two of them.

Week One

Lecture 1: Course Introduction, Traditional China

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 1, 2; start reading *Opium Wars*

Week Two

Lecture 2: China's External Threats in the mid-19 Century

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 3: Emperor Qianlong's letter to George Third (e-copy); continue *Opium Wars*)

Week Three

Lecture 3: Rebellions and Reforms

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 4, 5; Zeng Guofan (e-copy); Finish *Opium Wars*;

Week Four

Lecture 4: The Fall of Qing and Founding of the Republic

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 6, 7; Reform Edict of the Qing (e-copy); Start *Family*

First Book report due

Week Five

Lecture 5: The May 4th Movement

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 8, 9; The New Culture Movement (E-copy); continue *Family*

Week Six

Lecture 6: -- The Nationalist and the Nanking Decade

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 10-11; “*On the New Life Movement*” (e-copy); finish *Family*
Book review of *Family* due

Week Seven

Lecture 7: The Communists with Chinese Characteristics

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 12, 13; *The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party* (e-copy); start *The Rape of Nanking*

Week Eight

Lecture 8: War against Japan

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 14; *The War Goal* (e-copy); continue *The Rape of Nanking*

(Mid-term Exam); final paper topics due

Week Nine

Lecture 9: The Communist Revolution and Mao China

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 15-16; *The Countryside under Mao* (e-copy); finish *the Rape of Nanking*

Book review of *the Rape of Nanking* due

Week Ten

Lecture 10: China after Mao: Open and Reform

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 17-18; *The Other China* (e-copy); start *Hungry Ghosts*

Week Eleven

Lecture 11: China’s Foreign Policy and Nationalism

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts. 19, 20; *Taiwan’s fading independence movement* (e-copy); finish *Hungry Ghosts*

Book review of *Hungry Ghosts* due

Research Paper Presentations

Week Twelve

Lecture 12: China in the 21st Century

Readings: Schoppa, Chpts.21;

Final paper due

Final Exam