

HIST 3315 MODERN CHINA

Spring 2025 | MW 1-3:45PM, PHY 1.103

Prof. En Li

JO 4.902

en.li@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:

Prerequisite: Completion of a 060 core course. *Knowledge of Chinese languages is not required.*

Course Description:

This class examines political, socio-economic and intellectual-cultural developments in Chinese society from the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) to the present. Themes emphasized in this course include nationalism and communism, the processes of reform and revolution, and the urban-rural dichotomy in the formation of the Chinese nation-state in the twentieth century. Class meetings will consist of both lecture and discussion.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

The primary objective of this course is to cultivate better thinkers, writers, and readers through the learning of modern East Asian history, and most importantly, to encourage students to live their lives better, and continue to learn by themselves. More specifically:

- Being able to identify and recognize key concepts, people, places, and theories in the history of modern China;
- The opportunity via assigned reading, class discussion, assigned written work, and films, to develop critical reading and writing skills in order to develop sophisticated and persuasive arguments;
- The ability to discuss and reflect on history;
- The development of a historical and reflective perspective from which to engage in contemporary debates.

Textbooks and Materials:

Required Textbook:

1. Schoppa, R. Keith. *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*. Prentice Hall, 2002 (any editions are fine; used copies are fine; you can find a used copy for affordable price on Amazon);
2. Ruf, Gregory A. *Cadres and Kin: Making a Socialist Village in West China, 1921-1991*. Stanford, 1998 (any editions are fine; used copies are fine; you can find a used copy for affordable price on Amazon);

All ADDITIONAL READINGS are posted on eLearning

Assignments:

Map and Periodization quiz [10% final grade]

A short map and periodization quiz will ask students to identify major countries, cities, and area, as well as periodization that will frequently appear in this course. Detailed instructions will be posted and explained in class workshops.

Quizzes [30% final grade]

Six quizzes (5% each) are due on **selected Mondays**. Quizzes will ask students to identify and explain the historical significance of terms that appear on the outlines for lectures. Quizzes are **cumulative**, that is, any terms that have been introduced up to the time of the quizzes are eligible to be covered on the short assignments. Detailed instructions will be posted and explained in class meeting.

Please complete all the quizzes **individually**. Completing the quizzes is an important way for you to stay on track in this course and for me to clarify the course contents during the class meetings. My own philosophy is that students shouldn't be surprised or "tricked" by what they encounter on the quizzes—if you take notes during the lectures, keep up with the assigned readings and class discussions, the questions should not be unexpected.

Big-question posts and responses [50% final grade]

Students will form various discussion groups throughout the semester to complete **three discussion posts and peer reviews**. You can choose work individually, or within a group of **3-6 members** to prepare the big-question posts to the assigned question(s). Points will be awarded to each group for their post and facilitation of discussion. You will also receive points for your individual responses to other big-question posts. Detailed instructions will be posted and explained. *Both group and individual completion options are available for the big-question posts. It is beneficial to discuss with different groups even if you choose to complete the post individually. There will also be **multimedia option** for students who may prefer to work in audio or video formats for the **selected big-question post(s)**. Detailed instructions will be posted and explained.

Whole-class role-play discussion [10% final grade]

Detailed instructions will be posted and explained.

Detailed guidelines for all assignments will be distributed in class and posted on eLearning.

Tentative Schedule

I will make every reasonable effort to follow this reading and discussion schedule. Any modifications to this outline will be announced in class and via eLearning. It is your responsibility to be aware of the schedule and prepare the assigned materials.

Key: *Revolution and Its Past* = Schoppa, R. Keith. *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*.

Cadres and Kin = Ruf, Gregory A. *Cadres and Kin: Making a Socialist Village in West China, 1921-1991*.

+ = Item available via eLearning.

* = Due date for assignment

WK	Date	Modern China
1	1/20	MLK Holiday; class do no meet
2	1/27	Introduction Setting the Parameters of “Modern China” In-class documentary, I. M. Pei: Building China Modern (53 mins) <u>Readings:</u> +The syllabus +Tips to succeed in this course
3	2/3	China and the 18th-Century World: The Macartney Mission (Instructor in China; class is held asynchronously this week) Recorded lecture: China and the 18 th -Century World Discussion: The Macartney Mission (post notes on google doc) <u>Readings:</u> <i>Revolution and Its Past</i> , Chapter 1-2 +“Qianlong’s Rejection of Macartney’s Demand: Two Edicts”
4	2/10	19th Century Crises I: Opium Wars Lecture: First Clash with The West: The Opium Trade and the Opium Wars of the Nineteenth Century *Map quiz (10%) Discussion: Opium <u>Readings:</u> <i>Revolution and Its Past</i> , Chapter 3-4 + “Memorials on Opium.”

5	2/17	<p>19th Century Crises II: The Boxer Uprising</p> <p>Lecture: The Boxer Uprising and New Policies in the Last Decade of the Qing</p> <p>*Quiz#1 (5%)</p> <p>Discussion: Reform or Revolution?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapters 5-6</p> <p>+Sun Yat-sen, "Reform Proposal to Li Hongzhang, 1893."</p> <p>+Zhang Zhidong, "On the Central Government, 1898."</p> <p>+Zou Rong, "On Revolution."</p> <p>+Wang Tao, "On Reform."</p> <p>+Kang Youwei, "On Confucius and Reforms."</p>
6	2/24	<p>The 1911 Revolution and the Onset of Warlordism</p> <p>Lecture: The Wuchang Uprising and the Fall of the Dynasty</p> <p>In-class documentary: <i>Through the Consul's Eye</i> (50 mins)</p> <p>*Quiz#2 (5%)</p> <p>Discussion: Assessing the 1911 Revolution</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapter 7-8.</p> <p>+“Nationalizing the Appearance of Men.”</p> <p>+Lu Hsun, <i>True Story of Ah Q</i>. Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1977.</p>
7	3/3	<p>The Early Republic</p> <p>Lecture: Warlords; New Government;</p> <p>*Quiz#3 (5%)</p> <p>Discussion: On the May Fourth Movement</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>+Li Dazhao, "The Victory of Bhoshevism, 1918."</p>

		<p>+Ch'en Tu-hsiu, "The Way of Confucius and Modern Life."</p> <p>+Hu Shih, "On Pragmatism."</p> <p>+Liang Shu-ming, "Eastern and Western Civilization and Their Philosophies."</p>
8	3/10	<p>KMT in Power Lecture: KMT in Power <i>*Big-question post #1, main post due March 14, Friday, by the end of the day (10%)</i> <i>*Big-question post#1, peer review*2 due March 16, Sunday, by the end of the day (5%)</i></p>
9	3/17	Spring Break, class do not meet
10	3/24	<p>Emergence of Two Chinas? Lecture#1: Nanjing Decade; Urban Strategies of KMT Lecture#2: Urban and Rural China Discussion: Party, Class, and Gender <u>Readings:</u> Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapters 10, 11 +Ding Ling. <i>I Myself Am as A Woman</i>, "Miss Sophia's Diary." +Lu Xun, "What happens after Nora leaves home? A Talk given at the Beijing Women's Normal College, December 26, 1923."</p>
11	3/31	<p>War of Resistance Lecture#1: CCP and its Rural Strategies; <i>*Quiz#4 (5%)</i> Lecture#2: Long March and Yan'an <u>Readings:</u> Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapters 12, 13, 14 Ruf, <i>Cadres and Kin</i>, Ruf, <i>Cadres and Kin</i>, Chapter 1, 2 +Ding Ling. <i>I Myself Am as A Woman</i>, "Thoughts on March 8." <u>Optional reading:</u> Mao, <i>Talks at the Yen'an Forum on Literature and Art</i>, "Introduction."</p>

12	4/7	<p>Continuing the Revolution: China under Mao</p> <p>In-class documentary: <i>Why We Fight, The Battle of China</i></p> <p>Lecture: Civil War and the Founding of PRC</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapters 15, 16, 17</p> <p>Ruf, <i>Cadres and Kin</i>, Chapter 3, 4</p> <p>+“Text of the 1950 Marriage Law, in the appendix.”</p>
13	4/14	<p>Cultural Revolution</p> <p>In-class documentary: <i>Sun Under the Storm</i> (58 mins)</p> <p>Lecture: Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa: <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapter 18</p> <p>Ruf, <i>Cadres and Kin</i>, Chapters 5</p> <p>*Big-question post #2, main post due April 18, Friday, by the end of the day (10%)</p> <p>*Big-question post#2, peer review*2 due April 20, Sunday, by the end of the day (5%)</p>
14	4/21	<p>China under Mao: History and Representation</p> <p>Self-guided movie, <i>To Live</i> (Directed by Zhang Yimou, 1994, 132 mins)</p> <p>*Quiz#5 (5%)</p> <p>Discussion: <i>To Live</i> (1994)/Life under Mao</p> <p><u>Reading:</u></p> <p>Ruf, <i>Cadres and Kin</i>, Chapter 6</p>
15	4/28	<p>China Today</p> <p>Lecture#1: Transitioning to Post Mao Reforms</p> <p>In-class reading: Cui Jian, “Nothing to my name” 一無所有, 1986</p> <p>*Quiz#6 (5%)</p> <p>Lecture#2: Return to Prosperity in the 1990s</p> <p>In-class documentary: <i>Ai Weiwei, Without Fear or Favor</i> (51 minutes)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapter 19, 20</p> <p>+Documents on the Tiananmen Crisis of 1989.</p> <p>+Osnos, Evan, <i>The Age of Ambition</i> (selection). New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2015.</p>

16	5/5	<p>Final Reflections: A Revolutionary Century</p> <p>Discussion on Ai Weiwei and contemporary political dissidents</p> <p><i>*In class role-play discussion (10%)</i></p> <p>Lecture: International China under the Jiang and Hu Eras;</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>Schoppa, <i>Revolution and Its Past</i>, Chapter 21</p> <p>+Susan Greenhalgh, “Why does the end of the one-child policy matter.”</p> <p><i>*Big-question post #3, main post due May 16, Friday, by the end of the day (15%)</i></p> <p><i>*Big-question post#3, peer review*2 due May 18, Sunday, by the end of the day (5%)</i></p>
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Course & Instructor Policies:**Grading Policy:**

Percentages for the course assignments have been noted above. The following gradescale will be used: 0–59 [F]; 60–62 [D-]; 63–66 [D]; 67–69 [D+]; 70–72 [C-]; 73–76 [C]; 77–79 [C+]; 80–82 [B-]; 83–86 [B]; 87–89 [B+]; 90–92 [A-]; 93–100 [A]. In narrative form, [F]=failing; [D]=below average; [C]=average; [B]=above average; [A]=exceptional.

The professor reserves the right to curve, round, or otherwise adjust grades at her sole discretion.

Attendance, Participation, and Discussion:

Attendance is mandatory. Please consult the university calendar before scheduling vacations, weddings, or other extra-curricular events that may keep you from your responsibilities in this class. You are responsible for the material and any assignments regardless of whether you were in a given class meeting or not.

If you only miss one or two classes throughout the semester, you don't need to tell me why, but you may want to let me know ahead of time via email. More than two unexcused absences and/or persistent tardiness will result in a reduction of one partial grade. If you miss more than 6 classes, you automatically fail.

Late work:

Assignments are due on the assigned date. **Late work will not be accepted.** If you are unable to complete a major assignment by the due date, please consult with me as early as possible to discuss an extension. Major assignments submitted without an approved extension will be graded down one partial letter grade for each day that they are late (A to A-, A- to B, etc.). Beyond this, late submissions will not be accepted.

This policy applies only to written assignments and does not include oral presentations. Oral presentation cannot be made up by other formats without approved excuses.

Policy Regarding the Use of Generative AI:

One of the central goal of this course is to help you develop your research, writing, and critical thinking skills, all of which require **sustained engagement** and **active thought** on your part. Over-reliance on AI reduces your opportunity for this sustained engagement and active thought, and thus reduces the benefits of taking this course. At the same time, I recognize AI's potential as a learning tool and acknowledges that students will benefit from practicing effective use of AI in a research and writing context.

For these reasons, I don't place any explicit or program-wide limitations on AI use. However, it is up to the discretion of your instructor what constitutes "effective use" of AI on individual assignments, which can include banning AI for specific assignments. Furthermore, what is appropriate may change over the course of the semester, and might be different from one assignment to the next.

It is your responsibility to understand what is and is not allowed on any given assignment, and to ask questions of your instructor if you are uncertain. **You must also acknowledge, through citation, any work that is not your own. This includes both ideas and written prose provided by an AI tool.** Failure to properly cite AI use or failure to adhere to your instructor's policies will be considered violation to academic integrity and will be reported to the Dean and the University.

Personal Electronics:

Any non-class related use of personal electronics in the classroom will result in the immediate confiscation of the device. Confiscated devices will be returned at the end of the class period. Repeat offenses will result in a failing grade in the course.

Class Recordings:

Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Materials and Intellectual Property:

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), the clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX

Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

Course and Instructor Amendments to the University Policies:

Email Use:

Email is the preferred method of communication for this course. I generally reply to messages that require a response (and not all messages require or merit a response from the professor!) within two business days.

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Your Responsibility:

Students are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus and schedule, as well as any amendments or changes announced by the professor or Teaching Assistant(s) in class. Changes to the course schedule or syllabus will also be announced in class and/or by email. It is your responsibility to regularly check your UTD email account.

Failure to abide by the policies contained in the syllabus and any amendments or changes announced by the professor may result in a failing grade in the course.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

[revised January 12, 2025]