WORLD CULTURES: CHINA
V55.0512/Spring 2004
Mon. & Wed. 11am-12:15pm/Silver 207

Professor
Rebecca E. Karl
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715 Broadway, 3rd Floor (East Asian Studies)

Preceptors
George Tomlinson (gst202@nyu.edu)
Scott Myers (sem245@nyu.edu)
Osamu Nakano (on225@nyu.edu)

Off. phone: 998-7623
Off. hours: M: 1-2:30pm
W: 9-10:30am

Course description: This course explores concepts and practices of Chinese history, society and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries; it emphasizes the dialectical relationship between modernization and revolution through this period. By studying the social, political, religious, ideological, literary, economic, and cultural life of China in its relation to the global context of its time students will be introduced to and will gain a sense of how these have shaped China and the world in the modern period. Materials focus on primary sources in translation whenever possible, with secondary source materials used when necessary.

Students are expected to learn through attendance at lectures, careful reading, engaged discussion, and through writing/testing assignments designed to allow students to synthesize material and present ideas in essay format.

Course Requirements:
1. Regular attendance in lectures and recitations is mandatory.
2. Two exams (dates marked on syllabus): 20% each.
3. Two papers (dates marked on syllabus): 20% each.
4. The remaining 20% of your grade will be awarded by the preceptor for recitation attendance, participation, and in-class assignments. A poor grade in this portion will affect your overall grade beyond the statistical 20%.

To be purchased at NYU Bookstore:
2. Fei Xiaotong. From the Soil
4. Lu Xun, Diary of a Madman and Other Stories
5. Xie Bingying, A Woman Soldier’s Own Story

To be purchased at Unique Copy Shop (252 Greene Street)
Coursepak [noted in the syllabus as (CP)]

NOTE: Team up with classmates to purchase the coursepak may be a good solution to the expense. All materials are on reserve at Bobst library.
Some technicalities/rules:

1. Students should do the reading prior to arriving in lectures; 'reading' in the syllabus refers to assignments to be discussed that day. *Bring the readings to class with you.*
2. Professor and preceptors are available for consultation, assistance, and encouragement. You are urged to see or contact (by e-mail or phone) your preceptor and/or the professor for class-related problems and/or clarifications.
3. *Any and all plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course, and will be reported to the University for disciplinary action.*
4. If you miss more than two lectures or recitation sections in a row because of a personal medical or family situation, you MUST notify your preceptor and keep him informed. This is University policy. Absences are to be cleared with your preceptor in advance, if possible.
5. All graded assignments must be completed at the time stipulated in the syllabus. Make-up exams will *not* be given; late papers will *not* be accepted. You will receive a failing grade for the assignment if not completed on time. More than one missed assignment will result in failing the course.

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READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1:
Jan. 21: Introduction to Course

Week 2: Themes: Revolution & Modernization in China and the world
Jan. 26: Reading:
1. de Tocqueville, “Democracy in America” (CP)
2. Marx, “Communist Manifesto” (CP)
Jan. 28: Reading:
2. Chiang Kai-shek, “China’s Destiny” (CP)

PART 1: HISTORICAL MODERNITY

Week 3: Trade, Opium, War, Rebellion
Feb. 2: Reading:
1. *Mao for Beginners*, pp1-41
2. The Qian Long [Ch’ien Lung] Emperor, “A Decree” (CP)
3. Lin Zexu [Tse-hści], “Letter to Queen Victoria” (CP)
Feb. 4: Reading:
1. Robert Weller, “Taipings” (CP)
2. Documents from Taiping land reform (CP)

Week 4: Reform, Radicalism, Revolution
Feb. 9: Reading:
1. Liang Qichao, “New Rules for Destroying Countries” (CP)
2. Liang Qichao, “On the Relationship b/w Fiction and the Government of the People” (CP)
3. Sun Zhongshan [Yatsen], “Three Principles of the People” (CP)

Feb. 11: Reading:
1. Qiu Jin, “Excerpts from Stones of the Jingwei Bird” (CP)

**Paper #1 (due Feb. 16th, in class)
Topic for this paper will be distributed on Feb. 11th, in class.

PART II: CULTURAL MODERNITY

Week 5: Literature, Language, Narrative
Feb. 16: Reading:
1. Mao for Beginners: 42-56
2. Lu Xun, “Diary of a Madman”
4. Lu Xun, “Preface to Na Han”

Feb. 18: Reading:
1. Lu Xun, “New Year’s Sacrifice”
2. Lu Xun, “Regret for Things Past”

Week 6: Literary Critique and Cultural Reflection
Feb. 23: Reading:
2. Zhou Zuoren, “Humane Literature” (CP)

Feb. 25: Reading:
1. Hu Shi, “Some Modest Proposals for the Reform of Literature” (CP)
2. Lin Shu, “Nightmare” (CP)

PART III: SOCIAL/HISTORICAL ANALYSIS AND MODERNITY

Week 7: Liberal and Revolutionary Analyses of Society
March 1: Reading:
1. Mao for Beginners, 57-105
2. Mao Zedong, Report on Hunan Peasants’ Movement (CP) [this is not currently in CP]

March 3: Reading:
Fei Xiaotong, From the Soil

Week 8: History and Society
March 8: Reading:
Fei Xiaotong, From the Soil

**March 10: Exam #1, in class

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 13-20
PART IV: NEW SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FORMATIONS

Week 9: Feminism, revolution, and revolutionary literature
March 22: Reading:
    Xie Bingying, *A Woman Soldier’s Own Story*
March 24: Reading:
    Mao Zedong, “Talks on Art at Yenan” (CP)

**Paper #2: write a critical book review of Xie Bingying’s memoir; due in recitation section March 25 or 26

Week 10: War and Politics by any means
March 29: Reading:
    2. Chiang Kai-shek, “Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity” (CP)
March 31: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part I

PART V: REVOLUTION AND MODERNIZATION

Week 11: Consolidating the revolution
April 5: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part II
April 7: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part III

Week 12: Deepening the revolution
April 12: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part IV
April 14: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part V

Week 13: After the revolution
April 19: Reading:
    Meisner, *Mao’s China*, Part VI
April 21: Reading
    Wang Hui, “The 1989 Social Movement and the Origins of Neo-liberalism in China” (CP) [this is not currently in CP]

Week 14: Catch-up/Wrap-up

**Exam #2: Exam week schedule.
RECITATION SECTIONS

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>8:00-9:15am</td>
<td>Osamu Nakano</td>
<td>MEYR 105</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>9:30-10:45am</td>
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<td>Scott Myers</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
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