

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MODERN CHINA: RISE OF A SUPERPOWER?
SPRING 2022**

Course Instructor: Stephen R. Halsey

Course Number: HIS 316 S

Course Location and Time: asynchronous online format until Jan. 31

In-person format after Jan. 31: Whitten Learning Center 192; 4:20-5:35pm

Instructor Email: s.halsey@miami.edu

Instructor Office: Ashe 608

Instructor Office Phone: (305) 284-2144

Office Hours: T/R 2:45-3:45pm and by appointment; on Zoom until Jan. 31

Zoom Link and Password for Office Hours

<https://miami.zoom.us/j/99005664339?pwd=ZFprcDMvTFU1aGhremJEM2lQQ2xYdz09>

Meeting ID: 990 0566 4339

Passcode: 318808

Office Hours after Jan. 31st: Ashe 608. Please send me an email indicating your intention to come to office hours. I may suggest a meeting outside the Ashe Building instead of in my office to ensure safety.

Course Description

China has become one of the most powerful countries in the world in the early twenty-first century, and some commentators believe that it may come to dominate the international system within several decades. Yet during the past hundred and fifty years, it has witnessed three revolutions, fought eight major wars, and suffered the largest manmade famine in human history in the late 1950s. How can we reconcile this tumultuous past with China's growing stature on the world stage today? This **course** examines China's changing place in the global order from the late seventeenth century to the present, arguing that the origins of its current power lie as much in the country's past as in the economic reforms of the past twenty-five years. In the first third of this **course**, we will discuss China's last ruling dynasty (1644-1911), the Qing, addressing topics such as rebellion, the opium trade, imperialism, and foot-binding. We will then examine the Republican era (1911-1949), which saw the rise of Chinese nationalism, the outbreak of civil war, and the Japanese invasion of 1937. In the final third of the semester, we will discuss the communist revolution, Maoist policies such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, and the rapid development of China's economy since 1978.

Course Format

The University of Miami has moved all instruction online for the first two weeks of the spring semester. During that time, Modern China will be offered exclusively in an *asynchronous online format*. This means that I will **pre-record each lecture, post the Zoom link and password to the Blackboard course website on both the "Announcements" and the "Course Documents" tabs, and permit students to view the lectures at a time of their choosing during the relevant week.** Please remain current with the course; you cannot binge watch my lectures like Squid Game and still do well in the course. Take careful notes as you listen, and use the lists of key terms (found in the relevant weekly folders under Course Documents) that I provide to guide you through each lecture. I recommend that you find a quiet space, concentrate on your work, and write down the most important information for future reference. Since class participation in the traditional sense is impossible until Jan. 31, I will ask students

to contribute to a weekly discussion board on Blackboard as long as we remain in an online format. See below.

We will return to an in-person format on Tuesday, February 1st. Most class meetings will consist of a lecture accompanied by class discussion. At times students will analyze primary historical documents, video footage, music, propaganda posters, paintings, and other kinds of visual texts.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to think critically and analytically and construct persuasive arguments differentiating fact from conjecture
- Students will learn to analyze primary historical documents, identifying the intended audience, purpose, and political agenda of the writer
- Students will enhance their capacity to develop a cogent and well-organized argument in written form
- Students will develop an understanding of the basic narrative of modern Chinese history and gain familiarity with major interpretive questions

Course Requirements

Students will submit **midterm essays** on **Thursday, March 3rd, at 6pm** Eastern time (35%) and **final essays** (45%) on **Thursday, May 5th, at 6pm**. These examinations will be posted one week earlier on Blackboard Assignments. Expect to write about 4-6 pages in total for the midterm essays and 8-10 pages in total for the final essays. **Both assignments must be submitted through Blackboard SafeAssign and not sent directly to the instructor; work sent directly to my email account will NOT be accepted or graded.** **Class participation** will constitute 20% of the final course grade and will consist of oral comments in class and contributions to the Blackboard Discussion Board while we were in an online format.

Class Participation and Discussion Board Posts

During week two only, I have posted a discussion prompt to the Discussion Board on Blackboard **on Tuesday at 12pm Eastern Time** related to the course content for that week. It will consist of a few questions intended to start a discussion between students in the class. ***You should not only respond to the questions themselves but also read and comment on what other students have already written.*** There is no particular length requirement, but I want to see neither a Twitter feed nor an unabridged dictionary. A carefully constructed paragraph or so will suffice if it expresses good ideas. Think of it as a writing exercise in miniature. Begin with a clear topic or thesis sentence, support it with several relevant facts, and conclude with a sentence that summarizes your ideas. Pay attention also to the style of your writing. I will grade your contributions based on both quality and quantity, but quality is the more important consideration. If in doubt, say a few smart things in a clear paragraph or two rather than spewing verbiage onto the website. No one will want to read it, including me. The purpose of the exercise is threefold: I want you to stay current with the course, practice writing a short argument, and engage with the course material and your classmates at a deeper level. ***I will read and grade the discussion board contributions no later than the following Tuesday at 12pm after the prompt has been posted. It will NOT be possible to make these up at a later date except in cases of documented family emergency or severe illness.*** We will NOT have a discussion prompt during the first week of the class, the week of the midterm essays, or the final week of class. We will have a discussion prompt in all other weeks as long as we remain online. If we return to an in-person format, then class participation will consist of your comments and questions during lecture.

Course Texts to Purchase

Pamela Crossley, *The Manchus*

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 3rd edition
Yu Hua, *China In Ten Words*

Additional required course readings are available for download in pdf format on the Blackboard course website in Course Documents in the relevant weekly folder.

Course Policies

What To Do If You Catch Coronavirus

First, follow all of the established UM health and safety protocols. Do **NOT** come to class under any circumstances. I would find it very helpful if you apprised me of your condition, but you are not legally obliged to do so. Students who miss class because a **documented** case of coronavirus may request a recording of the course lectures for the time they are ill. You should write me an email with documentation of your condition attached, and I will send then you a Zoom link and password to the relevant lecture(s). After Feb. 1st, recordings of the lectures will not appear on the Blackboard website; they will be available only for students who get sick and cannot attend class.

UM Policy on Public Health and Safety

Face coverings are mandatory at all times (with the exception of when drinking water) while in public spaces on campus, including classrooms. Failure to follow this requirement is grounds for disciplinary action and may lead to removal from the classroom and/or the course.

UM Policy on Intellectual Property Rights

Stephen R. Halsey is the copyright owner of the courseware; individual recordings of the materials on Blackboard and/or of the virtual sessions are not allowed; and such materials cannot be shared outside the physical or virtual classroom environment.

Students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Meetings of this course might be recorded by the University or the instructor. Any recordings will be available to students registered for this class because they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. If the instructor or a University of Miami office plans any other uses for the recordings beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use.

UM Class Attendance and Participation Policy for Online Only Courses

You must keep up with the virtual class as scheduled. ***If you cannot keep up with the virtual class due to illness, family emergency or other reasons, you must contact the instructor as soon as you are able.*** Times are strange, and I will accommodate ***reasonable*** requests if you stay in touch. Please note that you do **NOT** need to reveal personal medical information, but I would find it very helpful if you voluntarily disclose a COVID infection. Failure to keep up with the class as scheduled will affect your grade and may lead to failing the course. **If you feel that you are struggling with this course, please contact me for help. My office hours are for your benefit.**

UM Policy on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in **automatic failure of the course** and referral to the University Honor Council where cheaters may face penalties up to and including expulsion from UM. Appeals, bribes, or tears will not alter the outcome; students have tried all three strategies in the past without success. **Students will submit all exams and papers through Blackboard SafeAssign**, which can identify plagiarized text (even if words and sentences are altered). This is for ***your*** protection; cheating harms the 99% of students who are honest and hardworking rather than the instructor.

Course Late Policy

Papers and exams submitted after the deadline in the course syllabus will be penalized one full letter grade (an A- becomes a B- etc.) for each day they are late. The first “day” begins immediately after the deadline passes, and after four days the grade becomes an automatic F. *Moreover, Blackboard SafeAssign will no longer accept papers after the formal deadline, and students will need to contact me directly at s.halsey@miami.edu to ask for instructions to submit their late work. If you are tech challenged, it is in your interest to submit exams and papers well before the deadline to make certain it works. Don't wait until one minute before the deadline only to have your wifi crash and then incur a heavy late penalty. If Blackboard vanquishes all of your efforts to master it or you upload the wrong version of your paper, please ask me for help in advance. Please also make certain to upload the proper document to Blackboard; at times students submit my exam questions or a blank Word file, and this creates a hassle for everyone.*

Classroom Decorum

Assuming we return to an in-person format, please keep the following rules in mind. Treat the classroom like a *professional space* and a *professional environment*. Arrive punctually, focus on the lecture, participate in discussion, ask questions, and submit your work on time. If an employer wouldn't tolerate certain forms of behavior or certain excuses for incomplete work, neither will I. Employers fire bad employees to penalize poor behavior; I (reluctantly) lower grades and then assign F's.

Course Schedule

Part I. The Multiethnic Empire of the Qing Era (1644-1911)

Week One

Jan 18 China: Rise of a Superpower?

Jan 20 The Foundation of the Qing Dynasty

Readings:

Crossley, *Manchus*, 1-74

Spence, *Modern China*, 26-47

Week Two

Jan 25 The Kangxi Emperor and the Consolidation of Qing Rule

Jan 27 The Mean Old Man: The Yongzheng Emperor

Readings:

Crossley, *Manchus*, 75-109

Spence, *Modern China*, 48-93

Kangxi's Valedictory Edict (Blackboard)

Week Three

Feb 1 Multiethnic Statecraft: The Gilded Age of the Qianlong Emperor

Feb 3 Demographic, Economic, and Social Developments in the High Qing Period

Readings:

Crossley, *Manchus*, 109-149

Spence, *Modern China*, 94-114

Eastman, *Family, Fields, Ancestors*, 1-14 (Blackboard)

Week Four

Feb 8 The Red-haired Barbarians: The Early Development of Sino-European Contacts

Feb 10 Opium Wars and Unequal Treaties

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 115-163

Wakeman, *Strangers at the Gate*, 11-58 (Blackboard)

Qianlong Emperor's Letter to George III (Blackboard)

Week Five

Feb 15 War's Desolation: The Mid-century Rebellions

Feb 17 Amassing the Sinews of Power: Armies, Arsenal, Steamships, Telegraphs

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 164-207

Spector, *Li Hongzhang and the Huai Army*, 152-194; 234-258 (Blackboard)

Week Six

Feb 22 The First Sino-Japanese War and its Aftermath

Feb 24 Reformist Thought and the Transitional Generation of the 1890s

Midterm Examination Posted to Blackboard Assignments Tab at 6pm

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 208-233

Schwartz, In *Search of Wealth and Power*, 42-112 (Blackboard)

Week Seven

Mar 1 The Boxer Uprising and the New Policies

Mar 3 **Midterm Examination Due on Blackboard Safe Assign at 6pm**

(No class this day. Finish your exam!)

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 234-44

Part II. The Republican Period, 1911-1949

Week Eight

Mar 8 The Republican Revolution and its Aftermath

Mar 10 China's First Cultural Revolution: The May Fourth Movement

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 244-326

Lu Xun, short stories, 7-24; 54-64 (Blackboard)

Week Nine

March 15 **Spring Break**

March 17 **Spring Break**

Week Ten

Mar 22 The Nanjing Decade: Jiang Kaishek and the Nationalist Government

Mar 24 The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 327-432

Part III. The People's Republic of China, 1949-Present

Week Eleven

Mar 29 The Chinese Civil War, 1945-1949

Mar 31 Korea: China's War with the United States

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 433-459; 469-77

Chen, *Mao's China*, 85-118 (Blackboard)

Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words* (start)

Week Twelve

Apr 5 Mao's Disasters: Rural Collectivization and the Great Leap Forward

Apr 7 The Sino-Soviet Split

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 460-68; 478-534

Chen, *Mao's China*, 49-84 (Blackboard)

Yu Hua, *China in Ten Words* (continue)

Week Thirteen

Apr 12 The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Reading: Yu Hua, *China In Ten Words* (finish)

Apr 14 Nixon in China: The Sino-American Rapprochement

Readings:

Spence, *Modern China*, 535-586

Week Fourteen

Apr 19 The New Order: Deng Xiaoping and the Early Reform Period

Apr 21 Democratic Discontent: Tiananmen and Its Aftermath

Readings:

Fewsmith, *China Since Tiananmen* (Blackboard start)

Week Fifteen

April 26 Contemporary China

April 28 Course Review

Readings:

Fewsmith, China Since Tiananmen (Blackboard finish)

Dreyer, Xi Jinping (Blackboard)

Final Essays Posted on Blackboard Assignments Tab at 6pm

Thursday, May 5th Final Essays Due on Blackboard at 6pm