

History 103: History of China (June 15-July 10, 1987)

MTWR 1;30-4

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263-1848

office hours: Tuesdays
& Thursdays, 4-5

History 103 is a general survey of Chinese history from antiquity to the People's Republic. There will be 16 course meetings, each dealing with two separate but related topics. No attempt will be made to offer a chronological treatment of the ancient and traditional periods in Chinese history (circa, 1750 B.C. -- 1839 A.D.), although the course readings should give you some sense of the chronological sweep of Chinese history. Rather, the lectures and discussions on pre-modern China (through June 25) will focus on selected interpretive problems in traditional Chinese history. The remainder of the course will be devoted to modern Chinese history and will proceed in more or less chronological fashion, examining the disintegration of traditional Chinese society under the impact of Western imperialism in the 19th century and China's 20th century revolutionary history.

You should purchase the following two books, available at University Bookstore and elsewhere:

Witold Rodzinski, The Walled Kingdom: A History of China from Antiquity to the Present (NY: The Free Press, 1984)

Jonathan D. Spence, The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolutions, 1895-1980 (Penguin paperback, 1982)

Requirements:

1. A final exam based on the lectures, discussions and readings outlined on the following pages. The exam will consist of two parts: (a) a short essay written outside of class selected from a list of questions to be distributed on Wednesday July 8 and due on Friday July 10; (b) a one-hour exam to be held at 1:30 p.m. on July 10.
2. A short paper (about 5-8 double-space typewritten pages) based on the reading of one of the books listed on the attached page of "Topics and Readings." In consultation with the instructor, other books (and topics) can be substituted for those listed.

Grading: Final Exam -- 75%
Paper ___ 25%

Note: It is essential that the required readings listed below be completed prior to the class meetings under which they appear.

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Schedule of Lecture and Discussion Topics and Required Reading

- M June 15: 1. Problems in the Study of Chinese History
2. Ancient China and the Pattern of the Chinese Past

- T June 16: 1. Chou Feudalism and the Problem of Feudalism in Chinese History
2. The Unification of China and the Nature of the Imperial State

Readings: Witold Rodzinski, The Walled Kingdom: A History
China from Antiquity to the Present (The Free
Press, 1984), chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 11-66)

- W June 17: 1. China and the Theory of the "Asiatic Mode of Production"
2. Traditional China as a Bureaucratic Society

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 67-111)

- Th. June 18: 1. Traditional China as a Gentry Society
2. The Relationship between State and Society in the Imperial Era

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 112-163)

- M June 22: 1. Confucianism as a Conservative Ideology
2. The Dynastic Cycle and Traditional Chinese Historiography

Readings: review Rodzinski, chs. 1-6.

- T June 23: 1. Economic and Scientific Development in Traditional China
2. The Problem of the Non-Development of Capitalism

Hist. 103 lecture and discussion topics (2)

- W June 24: 1. The Sinocentric Worldview
2. Early Sino-Western Relations and the Opium Wars

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 7 & 8 (pp. 164-207)

- Th June 25: 1. Traditional Chinese Peasant Rebellions and Rebel Ideologies
2. The Taiping Rebellion

Readings: TBA

- M June 29: 1. The Impact of Imperialism on Traditional Society
2. The Failure of Conservative Modernization, 1865-1895

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 9 & 10 (pp. 208-47)

- T June 30: 1. The Decay of Confucianism and the Episode of the "Hundred Days"
2. The Emergence of Modern Chinese Nationalism

Readings: Jonathan D. Spence, The Gate of Heavenly Peace:
The Chinese and Their Revolutions, 1895-1980
(Penguin paperback, 1982), chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-60)

- W July 1: 1. The Fall of the Old Regime: Sun Yat-sen and the Revolution of 1911
2. Socialist and Anarchist Currents in the Early Revolutionary Movement

Readings: Rodzinski, chapter 11 (pp. 229-47)
Spence, chapter 3 (pp.61-88)

Hist. 103 lecture and discussion topics (3)

Th July 2: 1. The May Fourth Movement

2. The Introduction of Marxism and the Origins of the Chinese Communist Party

Readings: Rodzinski, chapter 12 (pp. 274-93)
Spence, chapters 4-6 (pp. 89-178)

M July 6: 1. The Revolution of 1925-27

2. Chiang Kai-shek and Kuomintang China, 1928-49

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 13 & 14 (pp. 294-344)
Spence, chapters 7-10 (pp. 179-287)

T July 7: 1. Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Revolution

2. A Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Revolutions

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 15 & 16 (pp. 345-391)
Spence, chapter 11 (pp. 288-311)

W July 8: 1. The People's Republic: The Maoist Era, 1949-76

2. Post-Mao China

Readings: Rodzinski, chapters 17 & 18 (pp. 392-434)
Spence, chapters 12 & 13 (pp. 312-370)

Th July 9: 1. Chinese Communism and the Chinese Tradition

2. Review Session

F July 10: Final Exam