

## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of History

Semester I , 2003-04

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
338	Social and Intellectual History of Modern China 1911-1949	Prof. Yu-sheng Lin

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History 338 is concerned with major topics in the history of twentieth-century Chinese Intellectual and cultural developments and their sociopolitical backgrounds: the origins and nature of Chinese nationalism and its relationship to radical anti-traditionalism and conservatism; the failure of Chinese liberalism; the major trends in modern Chinese literature and humanities; and the origins and development of Chinese Marxism-Leninism (including Maoism). However, the first two weeks will be devoted to a study of the sociopolitical and intellectual backgrounds of the 1911 revolution and its historical consequences. The course offers a thematic approach to the causes, processes, and consequences of twentieth-century Chinese political and cultural revolutions; hence its chief emphases will be on social and political thought as well as literary ideas. One of the best ways to provide a channel through which a sense of empathy with the agonies, aspirations, and complex tensions in the Chinese political and cultural revolutions can be achieved is to read creative literary writings in their historical context. But foreign literature for this purpose needs to be *introduced*—especially the great works whose qualities lie in their *particular* contents and modes of expression. Therefore, in addition to major historical works, students are required to read some of the most important and influential novels, short stories, and prose poems in English translation with necessary background explanation and content analysis provided by lectures. Those who have no background in Chinese history should read J. K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, China: A New History, preferably the whole book, but at least pp. 187-455, in the first two weeks of the semester.

LECTURES, AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS, AND PACKET OF READINGS

Two 75-minute lectures each week. Two excellent 3-hour documentary films (China before 1949 and the Mao Years and Gate of Heavenly Peace) will be shown early in the semester. A packet of

reading materials is available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities; 263-1803).

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS:**

1. A 8-15 page typewritten, double-spaced term paper (topic of which may be decided by the student in consultation with the instructor or selected from a list of suggestions on the syllabus), or a 10-15 page book report on the themes, arguments, and implications of a book, to be due in the 14<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.
2. There will be a mid-term and a final in-class examination on questions to be distributed 48 hours in advance. The mid-term exam will take place on a date to be decided by majority vote.

**GRADING SYSTEM:** Term paper or book report 30%, mid-term 30%, final 30%, discussion session 10%

**OFFICE HOURS:** 2:30-3:30 Tuesday; 4:00-5:00 Thursday; 5134 Humanities Building (263-1857)

**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE:**

1. China's Modes of Response to the Western & Japanese Intrusions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - a. Foreign invasions
  - b. Stages of responses to the challenges of the imperialistic powers of the West and Japan
    - i. Wei Yuan
    - ii. Zhang Zhidong: "Chinese learning for the substance (the essential principles or *ti*) and Western learning for function (the practical applications or *yong*), contrasting with the Japanese "conservative route to modernization"
  - c. The disintegration of Chinese cosmology and the crisis of order

**Required Reading: Fairbank and Goldman, China: A New History, pp. 187-89, 195-224  
Lin Yu-sheng, "The 'Unity of Heaven and Man' in Chinese Thought:  
Some Historical Implications," the *Reader*, #19**

2. The Emergence of the Chinese Intelligentsia and the Rise of Chinese Nationalism
  - a. The traumatic awakening of the educated class after China's defeat by Japan in the first Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95
  - b. Yen Fu and the rise of Chinese nationalism and liberalism
  - c. The emergence of the New-Text Confucian "reformism" of Kang Youwei (K'ang Yu-wei) and the failure of the reform movement of 1898
  - d. Liang Qichao (Liang Ch'i-ch'ao) and his elaboration of nationalism

**Required Readings: Fairbank and Goldman, pp. 224-234**

**Ying-shih Yu, "The Radicalization of China in the Twentieth Century,"  
the Reader, #2**

**B. I. Schwartz, In Search of Wealth and Power: Yen Fu and the West,  
chapters 1-4, & 12.**

**Collateral Readings: Hao Chang, Liang Ch'I-ch'ao and the Intellectual Transition in  
China, chapters 4, 6, 8, 9.**

**Reserve Rm. Call No. DS763 L67 C48**

3. The Literary Revolution and the May Fourth movement

**Required Readings: Jerome B. Grieder, Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance,  
chap. 3, "The Literary Revolution,"  
the Reader, #10**

4. The Totalistic Revolt against Chinese Tradition and Its Historical Consequences
  - a. The origins of totalistic anti-traditionalism in the May Fourth era
    - i. Disintegration of traditional political and cultural orders as a result of the collapse of traditional Chinese cosmology and universal kingship
    - ii. The abuse of traditional symbols by Yuan Shikai and Zhang Xun and their implications
    - iii. The Confucian origins of the cultural-intellectualistic approach

and its continuity in the Chinese intelligentsia

- b. Samples of totalistic antitraditionalism: Chen Duxiu (Ch'en Tu-hsiu) and Hu Shi (Hu shih)
- c. The profound influences of the May Fourth totalistic anti-traditionalism on 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese culture in general and the Chinese communist movement in particular

**Required readings: Fairbank and Goldman, pp. 235-341. (pp. 343-455, optional)**

**Lin Yu-sheng, The Crisis of Chinese Consciousness, pp. ix-xii & 3-103, 152-161.**

**Edward Shils, "Ideology," the Reader, #3**

**Collateral readings: Lin Yu-sheng, "The Origins and Implications of Modern Chinese Scientism in the Early Republican China: A Case Study -- the Debate On 'Science vs. Metaphysics' in 1923," the *Reader*, #8**

- 5. The ambivalence and agony of Lu Xun's (Lu Hsun's) Iconoclastic Consciousness

**Required reading: Jon Eugene von Kowallis, "Introduction," in his *The Lyrical Lu Xun*, the *Reader*, #18 (This is a very succinct and good overview of Lu Xun, the greatest writer in 20<sup>th</sup> century China.)**

**Lu Hsun, Selected Stories of Lu Hsun (Lu Xun), especially "Preface to the First Collection of Short Stories," "Call to Arms," "A Madman's Diary," "My Old Home," "The True Story of Ah Q," "Village Opera," "In the Wine Shop"**

**Lin Yu-sheng, The Crisis of Chinese Consciousness, Chapter 6, pp. 104-151.**

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Morality of Mind and Immorality of  
Politics: Reflections on Lu Xun, the Intellectual,"  
the Reader #7

Marston Anderson, "The Morality of Form: Lu Xun and the  
Modern Chinese Short Story," the Reader #6

**COLLATERAL READINGS:**

Lu Xun, Selected Works of Lu Hsun, Vols. 1-4, Library call no. PL 2745 S5 A6.

Lu Xun, Dawn Blossoms Plucked as Dusk, the Reader #16; Wild Grass the Reader #15.

Leo Ou-fan Lee, Voices from the Iron House: A study of Lu Xun (Bloomington: Indiana U. P., 1987)

Merle Goldman ed., Modern Chinese Literature in the May Fourth Era, Chapters 4, 8, 9, 10.

T. A. Hsia, The Gate of Darkness, Chapters on Lu Hsun.  
Library call no. PL 2303 H72 (3/2)

Lawrence W. Chisolm, "Lu Hsun and Revolution in Modern China," Yale French Studies, 39 (1967), pp. 226-241.  
Library call no. APY17 F874.

J. D. Chinnery, "The Influence of Western Literature on Lu Xun (Lu Hsun)'s 'Diary of a Madman'," Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Vol. 23 (1960), pp. 309-322.  
Library call no. AP T726.

C. T. Hsia, "On the 'Scientific' Study of Modern Chinese Literature: A Reply to Professor Prusek, T'oung Pao," Vol. L (1963), pp. 428-474.

J. Prusek, "Lu Hsun's 'Huai Chiu': A Precursor of Modern Chinese Literature," Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Vol. 29 (1969), pp. 169-176.

Library call no. APH 339 J86

Harriet C. Mills, "Lu Hsu and the Communist Party," China Quarterly, No. 4 (1960), pp. 17-27.

Library call no. APC539 Q14.

Patrick Hanan, "The Technique of Lu Hsun's Fiction," Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Vol. 34 (1974), pp. 53-96.

6. Varieties of Modern Chinese Literature

REQUIRED READINGS: Pa Chin, Family.

Lao She, Rickshaw, tr. Jean M. James.

Library call no. PZ3 SJ619RL.

7. The Rise of Chinese Marxism

REQUIRED READINGS:

Maurice Meisner, "Western Imperialism and The Weakness of Chinese Social Classes," Reader, #5

Lin Yü-sheng, "The Debate of 1919 Concerning the Questions of 'Problems vs. Isms' and Its Historical Implications," Reader, #9

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," Reader, #4

Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism  
Library call no. HX387 L48 M4, or Chapter 6, "Determinism and Activism," the Reader, #12

**COLLATERAL READINGS:**

Arif Dirlik, The Origins of Chinese Communism

8. The Triumph of the Maoist Revolution

REQUIRED READINGS: Benjamin I. Schwartz, "Essential Features of the Maoist Strategy,"  
the Reader, #11

**COLLATERAL READINGS:**

Stuart Schram, The Thought of Mao Tse-tung.

9. The Historical Significance of Mao's Oppression of Chinese Intellectuals

REQUIRED READINGS: Mao Tse-tung (Mao Zedong), "Talks at the Yanan Forum on  
Literature and Art," the Reader, #13

Benjamin I. Schwartz, "Thoughts on the Late Mao—Between Total  
Redemption and Utter Frustration," Reader, #14

Leszek Kolakowski, "The Rise of Leninism," the Reader, #17.

**SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR THE TERM PAPER (SELECT ONE)**

( 8-15 double-spaced typewritten pages )

1. "On balance, Yen Fu's basic concern throughout these years (1859-98) is with education in the broadest sense... The gospel of education itself does not derive from Spencer. Spencer has not assigned to education or to ideas any particular roles as a dynamic principle pushing forward the evolutionary process. It is, rather, "evolution" as a total process which pushes forward all the separate aspects of human culture." (Schwartz's In Search of Wealth and Power, pp. 89-90.)  
On the basis of your reading of Schwartz's book and Lin Yu-sheng's Crisis of Chinese Consciousness, discuss analytically the origins and implications of this statement.