

EAS 301 Topics in Social Sciences
China: History & Modern Development of Environmental Health

Instructor: Dreux Montgomery

Course Description:

This course offers a unique and exciting opportunity to study Chinese history with a special emphasis on issues of environmental use, change and health. Much of the course material will be covered precisely on the sites in China where the events took place; moreover, much of the instruction will be provided by professors from Peking University, the most prestigious institution of higher learning in China. Covering ancient history as well as the history of the Chinese Revolution, the course will be based in Beijing, but will also travel to important sites far removed from the present-day capital of China. We hope that this travel course will provide students a once-in-a-lifetime experience to learn Chinese history where it was made.

Places to be visited in 2011 include:

Various sites in and around Beijing, including the Palace Museum, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the old Peking University campus, the Marco Polo Bridge, and many others. We will also attend a performance of the Peking Opera.

Outside Beijing we will visit the ancient capital of Xi'an, Chengdu in southwestern China, Guangzhou, Xiamen, and the Hakka villages in Fujian, before returning to Beijing. We will also make several trips into the countryside where students will have the opportunity to interact with and observe the lives of farmers.

Course Requirements:

All participants are strongly encouraged to take a least one course in Chinese history prior to taking this class. Students unable to fulfill this requirement are strongly encouraged to read the following two short texts on Chinese history before departure: Charles O. Hucker, *China to 1850*, and Edwin Moise, *Modern China*. Both are on reserve in the Helen C. White library. Prior to departure all students are required to read Jan Myrdal's *Report from a Chinese Village*, also on reserve in Helen C. White.

I. Readings:

Students will select two of the following readings, one from each category:

Category 1 Premodern China

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| Creel, H. G. | <i>The Birth of China</i> |
| Bodde, Dirk | <i>China's First Unifier</i> |
| Elvin, Mark | <i>The Retreat of the Elephants</i> |

Fitzgerald, C.P.	<i>Son of Heaven: A Biography of Li Shih-min; OR The Empress Wu</i>
Gernet, Jacques	<i>Daily Life in China on the Eve of the Mongol Invasion</i>
Marks, Robert	<i>Tigers, Rice, Silk & Silt</i>
Perry, Elizabeth	<i>Rebels & Revolutionaries in North China</i>
Ricci, Matteo	<i>China in the Sixteenth Century</i>
Perdue, Peter	<i>Exhausting the Earth</i>
Schoppa, R. Keith	<i>Xiang Lake</i>
Spence, Jonathan	<i>Death of Woman Wang</i>

Category 2 Modern China

Bianco, Lucien	<i>Origins of the Chinese Revolution</i>
Eastman, Lloyd	<i>The Abortive Revolution</i>
Economy, Elizabeth	<i>The River Runs Black</i>
Hinton, William Nee, Victor	<i>Turning Point in China, AND The Cultural Revolution at Peking University</i>
Isaacs, Harold	<i>The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution</i>
Lutze, Thomas	<i>China's Inevitable Revolution</i>
Meisner, Maurice	<i>Mao Zedong: A Political Biography</i>
Pomeranz, Kenneth	<i>The Making of a Hinterland</i>
Shapiro, Judith	<i>Mao's War Against Nature</i>
Snow, Edgar,	<i>Red Star Over China</i>

II. Written Requirements

- A. Before departure to China, each student will prepare a list of 10 questions, based on Jan Myrdal's *Report from a Chinese Village*, to ask villagers when we visit.
- B. In China, each student will maintain two journals, one that records new understandings of Chinese history based on lectures and site visits, and one that

records personal experiences, revelations, and reflections. Each journal must have a minimum of seven entries; each entry must be at least one page in length and must be legible. **Lecture Notes will not be accepted in lieu of actual journal entries!**

- C. Upon return from China, each student will write a 5 to 7 page report on his/her own investigation into contemporary village life. This paper will follow academic conventions, and must reference at least three sources.

III - Oral presentations

At appropriate times during our trip, each student will be asked, along with one or two classmates, to make two 30-minute oral presentations to the class, one presentation on each of the books selected by that student.

When presenting their reports, students should begin with basic information: the author's name, date of publication, name of publishing company. What follows should be an analysis of the author's argument, and an assessment of whether or not the author succeeds in making a convincing case. Student presenters will be expected to answer questions from their classmates.

Some Notes on Expectations

- **Behavior.** As guests of Peking University in particular and of the Chinese people in general, I expect all students to behave appropriately at all times.
- **Food.** We will be eating Chinese food very often. Sometimes the fare will seem unfamiliar and perhaps unappetizing. Please approach this as a new experience and sample everything with good grace.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: 5%

Book Reports: 40%

Journals: 20%

Fieldwork report: 35%