HST 360  
Spring, 2012  
Class Hours: TR 9:30-10:45  
Classroom: MO 206  

Dr. Yixin Chen  
Office: MO 230  
Office Hours: TR 12:30-2:30  

History of Modern China

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the history of China from the late-eighteenth century to the present. It provides the students with a general knowledge of modern China and a solid foundation for pursuing further studies in the field of China studies. Its main themes include China’s response to Western challenge, Nationalist and Communist revolutions, the Maoist rule, and China’s modern economic and social transformation. This course adopts R. Keith Schoppa’s Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History as the main textbook for covering detailed stories of modern China. It uses other required textbooks for class discussions and writing assignments. The class combines lectures, readings, discussions, and visual materials. Although no extensive background knowledge is presumed, students should be aware that the required readings include a large number of unfamiliar names and terms. Before each class meeting, students are expected to finish the reading assignment.

TEXTBOOKS (AVAILABLE AT THE BOOKSTORE):

R. Keith Schoppa, Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History
Julia Lovell, The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams, and the Making of China
Lu Xun, The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun
Frederic Wakeman, Policing Shanghai, 1927-1937
Yu Hua, To Live: A Novel
Leslie T. Chang, Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Attendance

There is no attendance policy, but students are expected to attend each class meeting.

2. Reading Assignments

The required reading assignments are listed in the calendar of course events. They vary week to week, but on the average students should expect about 80-90 pages per week.
3. Writing Assignments: 60%

Students are responsible for writing five short essays based respectively on the five textbooks other than Schoppa’s *Revolution and Its Past*. Each essay should be about 1,250 words or 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced and not exceeding 12 point font size. All essays must be submitted in hard copy. An essay that is submitted late will be penalized 5 percent of the assignment’s grade for each day it is overdue. Please retain an electronic version of each essay until the instructor returns the one that the students have submitted. Students are encouraged to consult their writings to the Writing Services at the university Learning Center at DePaolo Hall 1003 or [uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html](http://uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html). As the Writing Services helps in three ways (one-on-one appointments, online submissions and drop-in Writing Lab), a student should be able to get the writing help he/she wants.

Essay due dates and percentage:

1/31, *The Opium War*, 15%
2/16, *The Real Story of Ah-Q*, 10%
3/1, *Policing Shanghai*, 15%
4/3, *To Live*, 10%
4/19, *Factory Girls*, 10%

4. Examinations: 40%

Students are responsible for two in-class exams, the midterm and the final, that are based on the main textbook and lectures. Both exams will be in the form of multiple-choice questions and each exam is worth 20 percent of the course grade.

3/8, Midterm
5/8, Final

5. Class Discussion: 5% Extra

Students are encouraged to ask questions and express their thoughts in the class and to actively participate in classroom discussions. The extra credit points will be graded essentially upon a student’s performance in discussion sessions.

**GRADING POLICY: 100%**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:**
This course complies with the UNCW Academic Honesty Policy which is documented in the Undergraduate Catalogue and in the Student Handbook. Any plagiarism will lead a student to automatic failure of the class. In writing, any citation more than 25 words directly from other people’s works must be footnoted.

CALENDER OF COURSE EVENTS:

1/12
Introduction I: Syllabus/Chinese Geography and People
Reading: Schoppa, 4-24

I. Late Qing

1/17
Eighteenth-century China and the World
Schoppa, 35-37, 41-51

1/19
Opium War
Schoppa, 51-65

1/24
Taiping Rebellion
Schoppa, 66-79

1/26
Self-strengthening Movement
Schoppa, 86-94

1/31
Hundred Days’ Reform
Schoppa, 95-98, 100-105, 107-110, 112-118
Book Discussion: The Opium War
Essay #1 due

2/2
Boxers’ Rebellion
Schoppa, 118-124

2/7
Fragile Qing Empire
Schoppa, 110-112, 128-136

II. Republican China

2/9
1911 Revolution and Warlords’ Dominance of China
Schoppa, 136-156

2/14
New Culture Movement
Schoppa, 156-160, 162-179

2/16
Nationalist Revolution
Schoppa, 182-199
**Book Discussion: *The Real Story of Ah-Q***

**Essay #2 due**

2/21 Nationalist Nanjing Decade  
Schoppa, 201-220

2/23 Communist Agrarian Revolution  
Schoppa, 221-240

2/28 Sino-Japanese War  
Schoppa, 241-285

3/1 **Book Discussion: *Policing Shanghai***  
**Essay #3 due**

3/6 Chinese Civil War  
Schoppa, 286-303

3/8 **Midterm Exam**

**III. Maoist People’s Republic**

3/20 Building Maoist Socialism  
Schoppa, 305-319

3/22 From the Hundred Flowers to the Great Leap Forward  
Schoppa, 326-338

3/27 Socialist Education Campaign  
Schoppa, 338-344, 346-349

3/29 Cultural Revolution I  
Schoppa, 349-355

4/3 Cultural Revolution II  
Schoppa, 356-364  
**Book Discussion: *To Live***  
**Essay #4 due**

**IV: China in Reform Era**

4/10 Seeking Truth from the Facts  
Schoppa, 365-366, 390-394

4/12 Economic Reform  
Schoppa, 366-372

4/17 Cries for Democracy  
Schoppa, 394-399
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| 4/19 | Changing Society  
Schoppa, 372-388  
**Book Discussion: Factory Girls**  
**Essay #5 due** |
| 4/24 | Greater China: Taiwan and Hong Kong  
Schoppa, 319-324, 409-413, 417-435 |
| 4/26 | Emerging Giant  
Schoppa, 399-409 |
| 5/8  | **Final Exam, 8-11** |