

History 3995, China and the West, Fall 2014

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Lectures: 2 times a week

Discussions: selected days, TBA

This course analyses China's political, economic, and cultural encounters with the Western Powers from the seventeenth century to 1949. Students will consider the changing structure of Chinese society in order to understand how Imperial China perceived the West. Additionally, this course addresses different strategies employed by the Western Powers to gain influence in China, ranging from missionary work and the opium trade to military invasion. In the twentieth century, Chinese people borrowed such foreign concepts as republican government, revolution, and nationalism to overthrow the Qing dynasty and to launch political, economic, and social reforms that were unprecedented in scale and human cost. This course aims to help students reflect on the perceived and real impact of Chinese and Western civilizations on each other.

Learning objectives:

This course will incorporate current and past historiography to familiarize us with problems that arise in studying Chinese modern history and in analysing Western accounts of China. By the end of this course, successful students will have increased their understanding of the history of Sino-Western interactions and of Western perceptions about China. Critical thinking and writing skills will be strengthened through reading, discussions, assignments and research for a term paper.

Required readings:

Jonathan Spence, *To Change China* (Penguin, 1980, reprint 2002)

The search for Modern China: *A Documentary Collection* (W. W. Norton & Company, 1999)

Recommended reading:

John S. Gregory, *The West and China Since 1500* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)

D.E. Mungello, *The Great Encounter of China and the West, 1500-1800* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005)

Distribution of Grades:

Paper proposal – 10%

Book review – 20%

Term paper – 30 %

Final exam– 20%

Participation, discussions – 20%

- This course has **three writing assignments** (a book review, a term paper proposal, and the term paper) and final test.
- 1) Book review: Jonathan Spence, *To Change China* (5 pages, double spaced)
 - 2) Term paper proposal (3 pages double-spaced). Each student will choose **either** a Western person who wrote about China, a Chinese person who wrote about the West, **or** a Western institution/ country, which got involved with China at any period from 1650 to 1949. You will write a brief plan of the term paper, which will include the topic, potential arguments, chronology and available sources. Selected sources can be used from the collection of documents by Jonathan Spence (required text). This exercise will prepare students for writing a successful term paper.
 - 3) Term Paper (10 pages double-spaced, including bibliography) will be based on your term paper proposal. This paper will critically evaluate any Western account of the Qing or Republican China or any Chinese account of the West from 1650 to 1949.
- 6 group discussions will be based on Jonathan Spence's document collection *In Search of Modern China* (See required texts).

Week 1: Chinese and Western approaches to Chinese history
Travels of Marco Polo

Week 2: Portugal in Macao and early Europeans in China
Qing dynasty and early emperors

Week 3: Jesuits at the Qing court
China in the 18th century world

Week 4: European images of China
Discussion 1

Week 5: European diplomatic missions in China
Discussion 2

Week 6: Opium Wars and the "Opening of China."
The Taiping Rebellion and Christianity

Week 7: Life in treaty ports and in colonial Hong Kong
Discussion 3

Week 8: Western media on (images of) China
Discussion 4

Week 9: Chinese labor in North America (19th century)
Self-Strengthening movement (Learning from the West)

Book review is due!

Week 10: Boxer Rebellion (1900).
Discussion 5

Week 11: Movie “55 days in Peking”
Sun Yat-sen, the revolution and the end of Qing dynasty

Week 11: Soviet and US interests in Republican China (1920-1940)
Discussion 6

Week 12: Chinese writings about the West
The roots of Western stereotypes about China
Final paper is due!

Suggested readings for final paper.

1. General:

Cameron, Nigel. *Barbarians and Mandarins: Thirteen Centuries of Western Travelers in China* (New York, 1989).

Hopkirk, Peter. *Foreign Devils on the Silk Road* (London, 1980)

Kerr, Douglas and Julia Kuehn. *A Century of Travels in China: Critical Essays on Travel Writing from 1840s to the 1940s* (HKU, 2007)

Liam Matthew Brockey. *Journey to the East: the Jesuit Mission to China (1579-1724)* (Harvard, 2008)

Nield, Robert. *The China Coast: Trade and the First Treaty Ports* (Hong Kong, 2010)

Spence, Jonathan. *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci* (Penguin, 1985)

Wood, Frances. *The Lure of China* (Hong Kong, 2009)

2. Individuals experiences and accounts of China and the West:

Bickers, Robert. *Empire Made Me: and Englishman Adrift in Shanghai* (Penguin, 2004)

Bird, Isabella. *The Yangtze Valley and Beyond: an Account of Journeys in China* (1899)

- Bland, J.O.P., *Houseboat Days in China* (1909)
- Buck, Pearl. *The Good Earth* (1931).
- J. L. Cranmer-Byng, ed. *An Embassy to China: Being the Journal Kept by Lord Macartney During his Embassy to the Emperor Ch'ien-lung, 1793-1794* (1962).
- Fleming, Peter. *News from Tartary: A Journey from Peking to Kashmir* (1936)
- Frodsham, J. D. *The First Chinese Embassy to the West: The Journals of Kuo Sung-T'ao, Liu His-Hung and Chang Te-yi* (1974).
- Hedin, Sven. *Ruins of Desert Cathay* (1912)
- Hooker, Mary. *Behind the Scenes in Peking* (1910)
- Johnston, Reginald F. *From Peking to Mandalay: a Journey from North China to Burma through Tibetan Ssuch'uan and Yunnan* (1908).
- Johnston, Reginald F. *Twilight in the Forbidden City*. With a preface by the Emperor (1934)
- Johnstone, Simon, trans. *Diary of a Chinese Diplomat: Zhang Deyi* (1992).
- Lattimore, Owen. *The Desert Road to Turkestan* (1928).
- Lo Hui-min, ed. *The Correspondence of G. E. Morrison* (Cambridge, 1978).
- Macartney, Catherine. *An English Lady in Chinese Turkestan* (1931).
- Maugham, Somerset. *On a Chinese Screen* (1934).
- Richard Smith and John K. Fairbank, ed. *Robert Hart and China's Early Modernization: His Journals, 1863-1866* (1991).
- Stuart, John Leighton. *Fifty Years in China: The Memoirs of John Leighton Stuart, Missionary and Ambassador* (New York, 1954)
- Trevor-Roper, Hugh. *Hermit of Peking: the Hidden Life of Sir Edmund Backhouse* (1979).
- Wu Tingfang, *America and Americans from a Chinese Point of View* (London, 1914)
- Xue Fucheng. *The European Diary of Hsieh Fucheng, Envoy Extraordinary of Imperial China* (New York, 1993)

Younghusband, Francis. *The Heart of a Continent: a Narrative of Travels in Manchuria, Across the Gobi Desert, Through the Himalayas, the Pamirs, and Chitral, 1884-1894*. (1896).

Yung Wing. *My Life in China and America* (New York, 1909)